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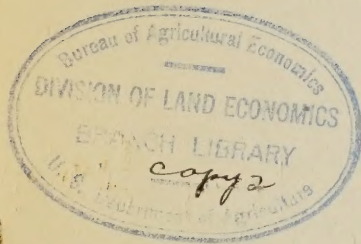
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

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Report to the Tolan Committee on the Cooperative Study
of Farm Labor and Tenancy in Southeast Missouri

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Prepared by E. J. Holcomb, G. M. Murray, J. C. Folsom,
and H. A. Turner



Statement prepared for the Select Committee Investigating
National Defense Migration, House of Representatives

November 1941

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REPORT TO THE TOLAN COMMITTEE ON THE COOPERATIVE STUDY OF
FARM LABOR AND TENANCY IN SOUTHEAST MISSOURI, 1940 1/

PRELIMINARY

PART I. - INTRODUCTION

Prepared by E. J. Holcomb

The southeastern Missouri cotton area is an extension of the Mississippi Delta cotton area. It includes all or parts of the eight southeastern counties in Missouri. This particular part of the delta has been brought into cotton production more recently than other parts of the Mississippi Delta and it is characterized by two important trends. In one part of this area new land development is going on through the draining and clearing of acreages for row-crop cultivation. The topography of the land is particularly suitable for multiple-row power machinery. In older parts of the area there is a trend away from such crops as wheat and corn, to cotton. Accompanying this trend is a tendency away from specialized livestock farming and toward a combination of enterprises. In other words, a cotton enterprise has been superimposed on a cash grain and livestock farming system, and accompanying this is a reduction in relative importance of the other enterprises.

The agricultural adjustments are continuing in the area with symbols of the older system still standing in the form of wheat elevators, the use of which is obviously declining, while the newer symbols, - the cotton gins, - thrive and their plant capacity runs ahead of the expansion of cotton production.

The transition has also left its mark on the people of the area. Newer farm operators recently attracted from the cotton South, hastily discard the system of farming they find and replace it with the cotton farm or plantation system to which they were accustomed. The operators who have been there longer gradually abandon the older system in favor of a cotton enterprise. Ambitious "small farmers" in this part of the State who are without capital attempt to rent land and buy operating equipment "on time." Unfortunate experiences, either through foreclosure, or the inability to obtain financing, force many of these into sharecropper or wage-laborer status, and then some of them move into the new land areas to "buy" an uncleared farm entirely on credit. Many realize that their chances of owning the farm are limited. At least it is a place to live for a while, and perhaps the Government may help then, they reason, before the farm is finally lost, along with their labor at land clearing, to the new land "developer."

1/ From a study conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station. The Farm Security Administration of the U.S.D.A. conducted a parallel study for which they are making a separate report.

The more successful tenants, those who have brought capital with them, or have borrowed and are paying for their equipment, are fearful that rents may be raised. Older tenants, whether they add a cotton enterprise to their cash-grain and livestock farm or not, feel the same fear. Rents are raised because competition for land is keen, both from within the ranks of farmers seeking land to work, as well as from those of cotton-gin operators who seek to assure their ginning operations an adequate volume of business. The latter group sub-rents the land to farmers but at higher rental rates. Purchasers of land are paying speculative prices and are burdened with debts. Consequently, they are unable to make desirable changes in their system of farming, and must deal in a niggardly way with their workers.

The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment program has served well to retard the otherwise sweeping shift in the farming system. It has been, however, a means through which owners and over-tenants have exerted pressure on tenants. New cotton farms may accumulate a base acreage or an allotment gradually under the new-grower section of the act, or they may "wild cat" cotton by planting an excessive acreage and paying penalties accordingly. Subsequently the farm is granted an allotment in line with that allowed other cotton farms. Landlords and over-tenants impose on their tenants by forcing them to bear the total cost or a proportional share of the total cost of "wild-cattin'" cotton. The proportional share is usually the share received by the interested parties. Not unusual is the practice of displacing the tenant after the farm is eligible for an allotment.

Mention has already been made of the principal types of tenure common to the area. Somewhat peculiar to the area is the over-tenant classification. In southeastern Missouri, the over-tenant is an important segment of the tenure pattern. His function, insofar as the landlord is concerned, is one of guaranteeing the rent, which is collected at the end of a crop season. So far as the tenant is concerned, the over-tenant is the financier, collector of the rent, ginner, and buyer of his cotton. The over-tenant is usually a cotton gin operator. He is, also, the banker, and the bookkeeper. Moreover, he sells cotton seed and lint, and sometimes transport the seed and lint by truck to the intermediate or ultimate markets. He is the principal buyer of planting seed, and such small amounts of fertilizers as are used on the farms he controls. In the case of an over-tenant who is a gin operator the primary purpose is to assure his cotton gin of a sufficient volume of business. Other functions, of which production loans are most important, are notable and undoubtedly profitable adjuncts. It is not always necessary for the ginner actually to become the over-tenant to exercise the control associated with over-tenancy. The extension of production loans to a tenant or even a full owner of land may include an agreement that the cotton be ginned by the lender. Almost invariably, however, the over-tenant is a ginner.

This system, because of its indirect management or delegated control, subjects the land and the operating tenants to abuses similar to those on absentee owned land. Familiar to absentee ownership are unsympathetic treatment of tenants and lack of attention to their problems. The system is one cause of the existence of poor housing and other essential facilities. Moreover, the feeling of security is almost wholly lacking among large numbers of tenants operating under it. Sharecroppers and wage laborers employed on such farms both experience a feeling of insecurity and are constantly looking for chances to work elsewhere.

The over-tenant is usually an owner of farm lands, in addition to those he rents. But even on the farms he owns, similar difficulties are experienced because of the carry-over of unsympathetic management from the rented farms. Tenant operators are subservient to the over-tenant out of fear of being displaced, or equally adverse, of being allowed smaller amounts of money for living and production expenses.

Apparently, the over-tenant also has his problems. Most important among these is the acute competition for a sufficient volume of business for his cotton gin. He must bid for land by offering higher rents since other gin operators are operating in this way. He must pass on to the operating tenant this land cost, usually at the same price which he has agreed to pay the landowner. He must assume the risk of financing his operating tenant and obtain whatever security the operating tenant may have to offer. This security usually includes crop lien, chattel mortgages, and assignment of A.A.A. payments. Losses undoubtedly occur which must be recovered out of interest collections from those who are able to pay the sale of crops produced, the A.A.A. payments, or the acquisition of the tenants' mortgaged property. Moreover, the gin operators feel that the risk involved entitles them to charge high rates for ginning their operating tenants' cotton, and, possibly to make additional profit from the purchase and sale of the cotton lint and seed produced.

Landowners are in an especially advantageous position, for they can allow the land to go to the highest bidder. Either one of several gin operators or one of several possible operating tenants may bid in the land. A preference undoubtedly exists in the favor of the ginner whose financial standing is such that he can usually pay the rent in cash regardless of conditions. Moreover the over-tenants' risks are spread among several operating tenants.

Apparently, few of the large landowners with sufficient capital find it to their advantage to rent their lands to the over-tenant and supply him operating capital with which he may expand his operations. In such cases then, the landlord becomes in a sense, the over-tenant's partner as well as his landlord.

Thus, the "agricultural ladder" in southeastern Missouri is complex. On the bottom rungs are the seasonal and migrant wage laborers; next, are regular wage laborers; sharecroppers, and other sub-tenants;

third, are the operating tenants; fourth, the over-tenant; and fifth, the landlord. These, with the financial connections and the complementary businesses of the over-tenant and the landlord make up what is called "the system" of land operation in southeastern Missouri.

This complex structure is not found on all farms. Neither is this the whole system on all farms. Farms of independent owner operators and tenants capable of financing themselves operate with fewer complexities. There is competition among the cotton ginner for their business. Reduced ginning charges and rebates are the rule, provided the independent operator favors the particular ginner with all of his business. On the other hand, land speculation, and land clearing operations are woven into the above described system.

PART II. CONCENTRATION OF CONTROL IN AGRICULTURE BY COTTON GINNERS IN NEW MADRID COUNTY, MISSOURI

Prepared by G. M. Murray

Introduction

Southeastern Missouri is the northernmost corner of the cotton country, and cotton farming is new in the area. Not until the full effects of the boll weevil had been felt further South did cotton acreage increase greatly in Missouri. In 1910, all thirteen cotton producing counties in the State grew only 54,498 bales of cotton, which was less than one-half of one percent of the total cotton crop and unimportant as a cash crop in Missouri. During the next ten years there was very little change.

Between 1920 and 1925, however, an almost unbelievable increase in cotton acreage and production occurred. Acreage increased by more than 330 percent, and production rose by more than 200 percent. The number of active gins increased from 53 in 1921 to 165 in 1925. This enormous and rapid growth changed the economy of the entire area; cotton became king -- the most important cash crop in the State, although production of this crop is confined.

Gins appeared like mushrooms, but no more than rapidly enough to handle the greatly increased ginning business. In fact, in some years, the gins could scarcely handle the crop.

Reason for Seeking Control of Land

Nevertheless, a change was in the making. First, the increase in the acres planted to cotton stopped abruptly; then, cotton acreage actually decreased, and after a continuous decrease during the 10 years following 1925, was 33 percent less than in the peak year. The ginner felt the pinch a few failed and some lost their identity as independent operators by consolidating with others. Even so, in 1935 there were still 151 active gins in Southeastern Missouri -- too many for the business at hand. After 1935 the number of gins began to grow again and cotton acreage and yields increased some, but the gins increased far faster than the business on which they depended. In 1940 there were 170 active gins in the seven delta counties competing for the cotton produced on 390,047 acres (three-fourths the 1925 acreage, when there were only 165 active gins).

The ginner, through their county associations, made strenuous and, on the whole, successful efforts to keep ginning prices up. Until 1940, the rates remained 30¢ per 100 pounds of cotton ginned and \$1.50 per bale for bagging and ties. ^{1/} But the volume of business was not great enough.

^{1/} There were special concessions to large independent growers. Rebates for hauling cotton to the gin, commissions on tenants' cotton, and other incentive payments were made to attract business, and they may have reduced charges and profits in a few instances.

According to the ginner, 1,500 bales of cotton are required annually to operate a gin profitably.

Often, especially in years of small yield, not all the ginner received enough business to operate at a profit. The more enterprising ginner began making efforts to control a sufficient amount of seed cotton to insure profitable operation and, of course, to capture for themselves as much more of the available business as possible.

Methods of Obtaining Control

Various methods suggested themselves or were already in use. Most of the ginner owned some land and grew some cotton themselves, with either sharecroppers and/or wage laborers. All cotton grown on the ginner's own land went to his gin. Why not buy more land and, through ownership, control the uses to which the land is put and the disposition of its product? The idea was adopted quickly. The ginner have bought land and are buying more at every opportunity. They have bought land at tax sales, much of it in swamp and forest, for as little as \$1.50 per acre. They have acquired title to the best land in the floodways, on the river side of the levees, and between the drainage ditches, and they have acquired well drained and cleared farmland. They are first on the ground to bid for the established farms of retiring farmers, and they buy foreclosed farms from banks and insurance companies. On all of this land, by virtue of ownership, the ginner control cotton production and the ginning of the cotton produced. This is true whether they operate the land themselves or rent it to the farmers.

There are other methods of controlling land. The ginner have found that they can control the disposition of the cotton crop by merely renting the land on which it is grown. Additional acres have come under their control in this way. Individuals holding land as an investment, retired farmers, insurance companies, and banks are glad to rent their land for the high prices the ginner are willing to pay. The ginner can pay high rents because they re-rent the land to the hard pressed farmers in this over-populated area for as much as or more than they pay to the owner. Of course, rented land is re-rented with stipulations which require the farmer-renter to gin all his cotton and sell all his seed at the ginner-landlord's gin.

Finally, the ginner have found it possible to extend their control without either the risk of purchase or the trouble of renting merely by advancing the money needed to produce the crops. The producers of cotton, perhaps more than any other group engaged in agriculture, depend on credit.

In Southeastern Missouri the cotton ginner's are probably the most important creditors, and the control which they exert over the land and the people who operate it is proportionately great.

The "furnish" arrangements always include a stipulation that the cotton be ginned at the creditor-ginner's gin. Frequently the borrower agrees to sell all his seed and lint cotton as well to the ginner who "furnishes" him.

Extent of Control

In 1938 the cotton ginner's 1/ in New Madrid County owned 591 farms containing 66,766 acres of cropland. This was 24 percent of the farms and 23 percent of the cropland in the county. They continued to purchase land during 1938 and 1939 and for the 1940 crop year owned 640 farms or 20 percent of all farms in the county. Their 1940 holdings included 72,131 acres of cropland which was more than 24 percent of all cropland in the county.

Very few of the ginner-owned farms were operated by the ginner's themselves. Of the 591 farms which they owned in 1938, the ginner's operated only 45; in 1939 they operated only 87 out of 632 farms owned; and in 1940 only 44 out of 640 farms which they owned, according to the Agricultural Conservation Committee's records. They preferred to rent their properties to farmers who relieved them of the task of producing the cotton crop and insured them a supply of cotton for their gins.

On the other hand, the ginner's operated some farms which they did not own. These they rented from other landowners. According to the records of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee, they operated 19 rented farms containing 2,896 acres of cropland in 1938; but in 1940, they operated only 17 farms containing 1,448 acres of cropland. In this three-year period, the number of rented farms which the ginner's operated themselves actually decreased.

Far more important an element in control than the farms which the ginner's rented and operated were the farms which they rented and re-rented to others for operation. Unfortunately the available data do no more than begin to picture the ginner's renting activities.

1/ Ginner's include individual gin owners, partners, and shareholders in corporatively owned gins. Lands listed as owned or otherwise controlled by ginner's include all land coming under the control of these persons; land owned by employees and relatives, when known to come under the ginner's control, and land owned by business associates or companies in which the ginner's had controlling ownership or influence sufficient to establish land policies (which would serve their interests as ginner's) particularly with respect to the production, processing and disposition of the cotton crop. For example, the land owned by a life insurance company, of which the president and principal stockholder is a cotton ginner, is included here.

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration records from which the information used here was obtained show the ginner (or anyone else) as the renter only when he (1) rents a farm from the owner for cash and operates it himself or re-rents it on a share basis or, (2) rents a farm on a share basis and operates it himself. If he rents the farm on either cash or share basis and re-rents to a farmer for cash or on a share basis, his name does not appear on the A.A.A. records for that farm. Only the renter-operator's name is entered on the records. There is, therefore, at this point a gap in our information on the extent of land control.

Ginners frequently act as agents, managers, or trustees for estates, corporations, and non-resident owners. In 1938 they served in one or more of these capacities on 15 farms containing 714 acres of cropland; and in 1940 on 30 farms containing 2,177 acres of cropland. Their position as managers or agents gave them virtually the same power over the processing and distribution of their cotton crop on these farms as that which they were able to exert as owners or renters on other farms.

Finally, the ginners exercised control as money lenders. In 1940 they made loans on 627 farms containing more than 71,168 acres of cropland. On 416 of these farms credit was the sole means of controlling the land and its use.

The source of this information was the file of the New Madrid County Agricultural Conservation Association. It is, therefore, only a partial indication of the control which the ginners exercised over land and its use by virtue of their power as creditors. The A.A.A. requires every creditor who makes a production or consumption loan and takes an assignment on the farmer-borrower's soil conservation check as security to sign a statement showing the amount which he has lent and the borrower's name and farm. But for many of the loans made to cotton farmers the only security is the farmers' chattels or his crop, and of these loans - for which the Government check is not assigned - the Agricultural Conservation Committee has no record. The extent of control achieved through credit activities is, therefore, very much greater than the data used here indicate.

On the basis of information obtained from various ginners and knowledge of the size of loans and the number of borrowers, it is here estimated that in New Madrid County from three-fourths to one million dollars is lent annually to the cotton farmers. There were 43 ginners in the county in 1940; several of them lend more than \$100,000 annually.

In 1940, by one means or another, and sometimes by several means in combination, the ginners controlled the production, processing and disposition of the cotton crop on 1,103 farms containing 118,163 acres of cropland or about 45,000 acres of cotton land. This was 34 percent of all farms in the county; 40 percent of the cropland and approximately 60 percent of the cotton land. At a yield of approximately 1 bale to the acre, (this

is one of the areas of highest yield outside the irrigated lands in New Mexico, Arizona, and California) they could count on 45,000 bales of cotton to keep their gins busy and paramount influence in the disposition of merchandise worth 2.75 million dollars (assuming cotton to be worth 10¢ per pound and seed \$23.00 per ton). Below an effort is made to show some of the effects of the use of this power.

Effects of Concentration of Control

For years Southeastern Missouri has been an area of acute population pressure. Between 1930 and 1940, the population of the seven counties in the delta area increased 29.3 percent and that of New Madrid County alone increased 31.5 percent -- while the total population of Missouri increased only 4.0 percent and that of the United States only 7.2 percent. This great increase in population is largely the result of an influx of families from other areas, rather than of an increase in the size of families (natural increase) already in the area, and consequently a very large part of the increase represents a need for more farms. Yet, during this same period the number of farms decreased 4.4 percent (987 fewer farms in 1940 than in 1930). It is in this setting that the concentration of land ownership and control must be viewed and appraised.

Population pressure has enhanced the importance of control over land. The ginners have had to clear and drain thousands of acres of forest and swamp land which they have acquired in the course of their business. The large surplus population has provided a cheap and ready labor force. Usually clearing is effected by hard pressed farmers (the newcomers; tenants and sharecroppers long in the area but finally displaced by consolidation of farms or by high rents; and established owners displaced by foreclosure) who find it increasingly difficult to buy or rent farms.

Undoubtedly, nothing but the lack of alternative opportunities has brought farmers in Southeastern Missouri to take up land clearing under the lease-terms common in the area. To have some place to live and an opportunity to use their equipment, farmers are willing to clear land for 50¢ per acre per month (i.e., about \$6.00 per acre) and one year's crop: off the new land 1/ -- the first year's crop is notoriously poor.

1/ Sometimes the land is cleared on a sort of lease-and-purchase arrangement, providing for total payments amounting to the equivalent of \$30-40 per acre. (It will be remembered that some of this land was acquired by the ginner-landdealers for as little as \$1.50 per acre at tax sales and land auctions))

Housing conditions in these cypress swamps are unbelievably bad. "Homes" - tents, log huts, tin-can shacks, or box houses -- are set up in clearings and families move in to spend a year at the arduous task of removing timber and digging ditches to wrest cropland from the wilderness. Suffering from dampness in summer and cold in winter is acute. The death rate is high. Diet is as poor as anywhere in the south: one can imagine the fare enjoyed by a family of five whose income in many months is less than \$20. Schools, roads, police protection, and other governmental services are lacking in many of the sections where land clearing is extensive.

In addition to clearing new land, the ginners have acquired much of the long-established cropland in the area. Their competition for land has helped to raise prices to the point where small operators can no longer purchase farms and the Farm Security Administration is able to justify purchases only by capitalizing the A.A.A. payments into their appraisals.

In much of the land to which they hold title, the ginners have very little equity. Some tracts are bought without a down payment, and if the first crop fails, the land is allowed to revert to the original owner.

Farmers renting and operating land owned by the ginners (and even some of those renting and operating land which the ginners do not own but have rented for re-renting) may be compelled to disregard the Government cotton allotments and plant cotton from fence to fence. One ginner-planter operating more than 15,000 acres of land in the Southeastern Missouri area has required his renters and croppers to plant cotton on the entire crop acreage of their tracts and pay the Government penalty tax on the excess acreage. This ginner pays the tax on his share of the excess (not all ginners do), but for him the cost is small when compared to the profits from ginning the additional cotton thus secured -- both his own and the tenants. To make sure the tenant plants all his land in cotton, the ginner includes a clause in his lease setting a penalty rent of from \$10 to \$15 per acre cash on all land not planted in cotton.

Land rent also has risen to an unprecedented level. Land which for years brought no more than \$6.00 per acre is now renting at \$12 to \$17.50 per acre cash. Some farmers are paying as much as \$12 per acre on all deeded land: Woods, swamp, roads, and ditches, as well as on cropland. Crop rents also have changed to the disadvantage of the farmers. Instances were found in which sharecroppers (i.e., half-hands) were working for as little as 12½ percent of the cotton crop, and one large tenant farmer was supplying all equipment, stock, seed, feed, fertilizer for one-half the crop. The ginner, since he looks primarily to cotton ginning for his profits can afford to take a small loss on rent. Moreover, he may be able to re-rent the land. Or he may pass on the high rent to a farmer-operator who bears the burden through inadequate allowances for depreciation on his machinery and a reduced standard of living for himself and his family.

Those who are unable to find farms to rent are by no means limited to the shoestring farmers, the drifters, and the "lazy" sharecroppers. Some displaced tenants were once prosperous farm operators. One man on a tract of ten acres, had nearly \$20,000 worth of farm machinery, mostly idle because he could not find a farm large enough to use it.

In the early spring of 1939 the State Employment Service conducted a voluntary registration of persons unable to find farms to rent or places to sharecrop. In the seven Southeastern Missouri Counties more than 900 families registered. This large registration occurred even though the registration day was cold and rainy and the registration was given inadequate publicity.

Information on the methods of extending credit, the terms, and the volume of loans is extremely difficult to obtain. The writer was able to establish that most crop loans are made only to those who have machinery or other valuable chattels which can be mortgaged. Moreover, he found it usual for the ginner-creditor to take an assignment on the borrower's crop and on the first Government payment as well. Thus, the ginner has triple security on a large portion of his loans. Interest rates on these low-risk loans vary from 6 to 12 percent, and are usually made from funds borrowed by the ginner at lower rates.

If the ginner furnishes groceries, or finances the purchase of stock, tools, and machinery (in which he may be a dealer), he may profit by inflating prices -- the usual practice of credit merchants in the Cotton Belt. One sharecropper interviewed agreed to swap a good team of mules and \$300 for the ginner-merchant's inferior team and a chance to make a crop on one of the ginner's farms. To make room for the man who had made this disadvantageous trade, another sharecropper was displaced.

Should the farmer take any part of his crop to the gin of a competitor, the creditor-ginner may compel him to pay bonus cash rental equal to the ginning charge, and he can expect no credit in the future even should he remain on the farm in subsequent years.

Whether a farmer rents or sharecrops on the ginner's land; or on land which the ginner has rented and re-rents to him, or only borrows money to finance his production, he surrenders the control of his crop.

PART III - FARM ORGANIZATION

Prepared by E. J. Holcomb

Size of Farms

The foregoing discussion of the system in existence in southeastern Missouri will serve to illustrate how operating units vary in size from year to year. Operating units in 1940, for example, may be several units, or a part of a much larger operating unit in 1941, depending considerably upon the over-tenants desires or opportunities. The number of farms will tend to vary inversely with the sizes of the operating tenants farms. For purposes of this study, however, farms were grouped into four size classes. Group I included the 1940 operating units of less than 120 acres of cropland, Group II included those with between 120 and 299.9 acres of cropland, Group III included those with between 300 and 479.9 acres of cropland, and Group IV included those with 480 and more acres of cropland, according to the A.A.A. listing sheets.

By grouping the farms in this way it was possible to secure a list comprising a few farm operators sufficiently representative of all farms within each group so that every farm need not be visited to obtain adequate information. As an additional check on the adequacy of the sample for the 5-year study, (1936-40) information regarding the number of operating units by each size group was secured for the 3 years 1938, 1939, and 1940. Similar information for earlier years was not available. It will be noted (table 1.) that the number of farms in each size group varied erratically with no indication of a trend for any groups, with the possible exception of Group II. As the other groups, both larger and smaller, showed radical variations, the apparent trend observed for Group II is believed to be accidental. An over-all increase in the number of farms was expected along with an increase in the number for the small size groups, due to land-clearing operations. However, the most significant increase in numbers of farms occurred in Group IV. Increases in Group I will continue during the period of land-clearing operations, but these are expected to be combined gradually with other such farms, and thus tend to move into larger farm-size groups.

Approximately three-fourths of the farms in the county were included in Group I in each of the 3 years. The number of farms in the two larger size groups represented less than 5 percent of the total number of farms in 1938 and 1940, and slightly more than 5 percent in 1939. On the other hand, however, approximately 20 percent of the cropland is included in farms in these size groups.

Table 1. - Numbers of farms by size groups of farms in New Madrid County, Missouri, 1938-40. (Preliminary)

Size Groups	: Acres of Cropland	: 1938	: 1939	: 1940
		Number	Number	Number
Group I	0 - 119.9	2274	2191	2492
Group II	120.0 - 299.9	582	590	602
Group III	300.0 - 479.9	88	89	80
Group IV	480 and over	49	66	56
Total		2993	2936	3230

Within the sample of farms studied, an effort was made to obtain continuous information about each farm for the period 1936-40. It was impossible to trace each such farm back, but of the 115 farms in the sample for 1940 only 23 farms were lost from the sample for 1936. For 1937 only 7 farms were lost, of which ~~one~~ were lost from Groups II and IV and only one from Group III (table 2). Group I, however, lost 6 farms so far as 1937 information is concerned, largely because these farms were cleared and farming operations began after that year.

Sample farms in Group II showed a negligible variation in size and in cropland acres. Group IV sample farms, however, increased in average acres of cropland by 37 acres between 1937 and 1938, 22 additional between 1938 and 1939, and decreased by an average of 1 acre between 1939 and 1940. The net increase in cropland between 1937 and 1940 was 58 acres for Group IV farms (table 3).

Table 2. - Number of farms included in sample, by size groups of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri. 1936 - 40. (Preliminary)

Size Groups	: Interval	: Number
	: Acres of cropland:	: 1936 : 1937 : 1938 : 1939 : 1940
Group I	0.- 119.9	: 24 : 30 : 34 : 36 : 36
Group II	120.- 299.9	: 25 : 30 : 30 : 30 : 30
Group III	300 - 479.9	: 24 : 28 : 29 : 29 : 29
Group IV	480 and over	: 19 : 20 : 20 : 20 : 20
Total		: 92 : 108 : 113 : 115 : 115

Table 3. Changes in average sizes of farms and acres of cropland, by size groups 1/ of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936-40. (Preliminary)

Item	Acres				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Farm Land					
Group I	99.1	67.0	63.1	63.4	62.6
Group II	230.0	227.5	230.7	231.9	232.6
Group III	399.3	426.5	424.8	415.2	414.7
Group IV	915.0	908.5	965.5	991.8	986.0
Cropland					
Group I	76.6	55.3	51.6	50.6	50.5
Group II	190.6	196.4	200.6	196.7	198.4
Group III	348.2	380.4	391.4	381.7	380.4
Group IV	729.1	731.5	768.4	790.5	789.4
Percent Cropland	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Group I	77.3	82.5	81.8	79.8	80.7
Group II	82.9	86.4	87.0	84.9	85.3
Group III	87.2	89.2	92.1	91.9	91.7
Group IV	79.7	80.5	79.6	79.7	80.1

1/ Size group designations are as follows:

Group I: 0 - 119.9 acres of cropland
Group II: 120 - 299.9 acres of cropland
Group III: 300 - 479.9 acres of cropland
Group IV: 480 and more acres of cropland

Farms in Groups IV also increased substantially in total land area. The average amounted to an increase between 1937 and 1940 (the continuous period for which data on all 20 farms were available) of 77.5 acres, with the result that the proportion which cropland represented of all land remained practically the same throughout the period.

It is an interesting fact that the proportion of cropland in Groups II and III were successively higher than Group I farms. Group IV farms, on the other hand, show a proportional amount of cropland comparable with Group I farms. Possible explanations for this may be found in the fact that the larger farms are the older, better established farms located on sandier soils, and on which a combination of enterprises including livestock is to be found. Farms in Groups II and III tend more toward row-crop culture. More of the Group I farms are located in the newly developed sections and are still in the process of being cleared.

One of the more important factors to be noted is that changes in the total size of the farms and changes in acreage of cropland appear to be closely related. Thus, it would appear that the acquisition of additional land by the larger farms (Groups II, III and IV) was land already in farms and that cropland was added to these farms at approximately the same rate as non-cropland.

Use of Cropland

The two principal crops in New Madrid County are cotton and corn. During the past 5 years cotton has been increasing in relative importance with corn. In 1936 slightly more of the cropland was devoted to corn than cotton. Since 1936, corn has declined sharply, so that by 1940, approximately 30 percent of the cropland was devoted to cotton and little more than 20 percent to corn (table 4).

Trend information for other crops was not collected, since it was assumed that the interrelationships between cotton and corn would have the greatest bearing on labor. Cotton requires considerably more labor than corn or other crops, so that this exchange, in the relative importance of cotton and corn, tends to increase labor needs.

The acreage devoted to cotton increased on farms included in Groups II and III. The increase amounted to an average of 5.5 acres between 1936 and 1940 in the case of Group II farms while the average cropland increase amounted to 7.8 acres (table 5). On Group III farms, an increase of 32.2 acres of cropland was accompanied by an increase of 18.7 acres of cotton. Decreases in cotton acreage occurred in Groups I and IV. On Group I farms a decrease of 26.1 acres of cropland was accompanied by a decrease of 3.2 acres of cotton, while on Group IV farms an increase of 60.3 acres of cropland was accompanied by a decrease of 11.3 acres of cotton.

Table 4. Percentage of cropland devoted to cotton, corn, and the two crops combined by size groups of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936 - 1940. (Preliminary)

Size Groups ^{1/}	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
	%	%	%	%	%
Percentage of cropland in cotton:					
Group I	28.2	50.3	33.3	35.4	36.5
II	29.2	42.5	27.3	30.0	30.8
III	22.7	28.2	21.2	23.6	25.7
IV	33.9	43.3	32.2	26.7	29.9
Percentage of cropland in corn:					
Group I	29.6	21.0	25.8	25.2	21.5
II	36.5	24.1	30.1	20.1	18.6
III	32.7	27.7	25.6	22.8	21.8
IV	28.0	24.4	25.9	21.9	22.0
Percentage of cropland in cotton and corn:					
Group I	57.8	71.3	59.1	60.6	58.0
II	65.7	66.6	57.4	50.1	49.4
III	55.4	55.9	46.8	46.4	47.5
IV	61.9	67.7	58.1	48.6	51.9

^{1/} See table 2, for explanation of size groups.

Table 5 Average acres of cotton and corn and the two crops combined per farm, by size groups of farms, New Madrid, Missouri, 1936-40.
(Preliminary)

Size Groups ^{1/}	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Cotton:					
Group I	21.6	27.8	17.2	17.9	18.4
Group II	55.6	83.6	54.7	58.9	61.2
Group III	79.1	107.5	82.9	90.2	97.8
Group IV	247.2	316.9	247.7	211.0	235.9
Corn:					
Group I	22.7	11.6	13.3	12.8	10.9
Group II	69.6	47.4	60.5	51.3	47.1
Group III	113.9	105.5	100.3	86.8	83.1
Group IV	204.0	178.5	199.4	173.2	173.8
Cotton and Corn:					
Group I	44.3	39.4	30.5	30.7	29.3
Group II	125.2	131.0	115.2	110.2	108.3
Group III	193.0	213.0	183.2	177.0	180.9
Group IV	451.2	495.4	447.1	384.2	409.7

^{1/} See table 2 for explanation of size groups

The greatest changes occurred between 1936 and 1937 and between 1937 and 1938. Between 1936 and 1937 all groups increased sharply their acreage devoted to cotton, only to reduce the acreage in 1938 to levels comparable with 1936. Since 1938 the acreage changes have been upward slightly in all groups except Group IV. In Group IV a decline occurred between 1938 and 1939, but by 1940 an increase occurred which amounted to two-thirds of the 1938-39 decline.

Corn-acreage changes in each group are inversely related to the changes in cotton acreages. The combined cotton and corn acreage has declined in each of the groups however. Likewise, the percentage of land devoted to these two crops has declined with the exception of Group I, where a slight increase occurred.

Mechanization of Farms

Tabulations of the rate of mechanization of farms included in the study are at present incomplete, but data are available regarding numbers of tractors and workstock. Tractorization of farms has increased at a rapid rate. The rate of increase has been greater on smaller farms, successively, than on larger farms (table 6). More of the smaller farms utilized tractor power, in relation to their size, than the larger farms. Both of the above observations hold for each year of the study, but only to the extent that farms renting tractors are included on an equal basis with farms owning tractors.

Addition of tractor power to the farms has had little effect on numbers of workstock held by the farms.^{1/} Farmers in Groups I and II reduced their numbers of workstock at the rate of about 1 head for each tractor, including owned and rented tractors. On a similar basis, those in Group III actually increased their workstock by about 3 heads per tractor added, while those in Group IV displaced approximately 2 heads per tractor added. In the latter group all tractors were owned by the farm operator.

In 1940, virtually all farms in size Groups II, III and IV used tractors (table 7). Only one farm in each of Groups III and IV and only two in Group II were without tractor power. Twenty of the 36 farms in Group I used tractors. The 19 farms having tractor power in Group IV had been using tractors since 1937 and 15 of them had tractors in 1936. Twenty-five of the 28 farms having tractors in Group III had been using such power since 1937 and 19 since 1936. Of Group II farmers, 16 had been using tractors since 1936, 23 since 1937, and 25 since 1939. In Group I, only 4 had been using tractors for the entire period, 7 since 1937, and 13 since 1939.

^{1/} Incomplete tabulations prohibit an analysis of this sort by types and sizes of tractors.

Table 6.- Average number of tractors and workstock used per farm and number owned, by size groups of farms,^{1/} New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936 - 1940. (Preliminary)

Size of Groups	Number				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Tractors					
Group I	0.17	0.23	0.36	0.36	0.56
Group II	0.72	0.93	0.83	0.93	1.10
Group III	0.92	1.21	1.24	1.14	1.31
Group IV	1.42	1.65	1.80	1.85	2.05
Workstock					
Group I	3.46	2.67	3.06	3.08	2.97
Group II	6.52	6.23	6.07	6.17	6.10
Group III	11.88	10.89	12.45	12.21	13.03
Group IV	20.63	23.15	21.40	19.80	19.50
Owned Tractors					
Group I	0.04	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.08
Group II	0.52	0.67	0.73	0.83	1.00
Group III	0.88	1.14	1.17	1.07	1.24
Group IV	1.42	1.65	1.80	1.85	2.05
Owned Workstock					
Group I	3.21	2.33	2.76	2.81	2.64
Group II	6.52	6.23	6.07	6.17	6.03
Group III	11.88	10.89	12.45	12.21	13.03
Group IV	20.63	23.15	21.40	19.80	19.40

^{1/} For explanation of size groups see Table 2.

Table 7.- Number of farms owning tractors and number renting tractors, by size groups^{1/} of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936-40.
(Preliminary)

Item	Number				
	: 1936	: 1937	: 1938	: 1939	: 1940
Owning tractors ^{2/}					
Group I	1	3	1	3	3
Group II	11	17	20	24	27
Group III	18	24	25	23	26
Group IV	15	19	19	19	19
Renting tractors ^{3/}					
Group I	3	4	6	10	17
Group II	5	6	2	1	1
Group III	1	1	2	2	2
Group IV	0	0	0	0	0
Owning and renting tractors					
Group I	4	7	7	13	20
Group II	16	23	22	25	28
Group III	19	25	27	25	28
Group IV	15	19	19	19	19

^{1/}For explanation of size groups see table 2.

^{2/}Farms renting tractors in addition to owning tractors are included here.

^{3/}Farms renting tractors only.

If tractorization of farms is considered only to the extent that tractors are owned by the farm operators, the magnitude of changes in numbers is altered. Group I farms increased their numbers of tractors more rapidly than farms in the larger size groups, but the number never exceeded one tractor for each 10 farms. Group II farmers doubled their number of tractors over the 5-year period, from one tractor on every two farms to one tractor per farm. Group III farmers owned practically all the tractors operated on their land and the increase between 1936 and 1940 amounted to approximately 50 percent. The picture described above for Group IV holds here, also, as all of the tractors used on these farms were owned by the operators (table 6).

Incomplete tabulations do not permit an appraisal of the relative importance of the rented tractors compared with owned tractors. The original data sets forth the particular operations at which rented and owned tractors were employed. Thus, the final report on this study will show more clearly the advance of mechanization.

Little change is shown in the total number of workstock utilized as compared with those owned. One or more farms in each group rented workstock, with the exception of Group III. The effect of renting workstock does not alter the generalizations described above.

Table 7 shows the number of farms, in each group, owning and renting tractors during each of the five years. The number owning tractors in Group I increased from 1 to 3 during the period, while the number renting tractors increased from 3 to 17. In Group II, eleven farms owned tractors in 1936, and 27 in 1940, but the number of farms renting tractors declined from 5 to 1. In Group III, the number of farms owning tractors increased from 18 to 26, and the number renting tractors increased from one to two. None of the farms in Group IV rented tractors, but the number owning tractors increased from 15 to 19.

Structure of the Labor Force

Types of labor utilized on farms in New Madrid County are similar to those on farms in the Cotton Belt generally. In addition to the operator and the members of his family, seasonal laborers, including migrant seasonal labor, are hired during rush seasons, but most of the laborers are sharecroppers, patch croppers, hoe croppers, regular wage families, single wage hands, non-managing share and cash tenants, and a few quasi-share laborers.^{1/} By far the more important types of regular laborers were the sharecroppers, the regular wage families, and the single wage hands. Single wage hands were less important than sharecroppers and wage families. In 1940, however, sharecroppers and regular wage families were approaching equal importance with the sharecropper group holding an advantage.

As other types of share laborers were relatively few, they were included with sharecroppers, and the combined types called sub-tenants. Wage families and single wage hand classifications include only those cases usually considered in such categories.

It is to be expected that the number of families employed will tend to increase as the size of the operating unit increases. The rate of increase normally will be greater on farms of approximately the size of those in Groups I and II, since the operator and his family usually perform an amount of work equal to one or more hired worker families. The rate of increase in numbers of hired families should tend to decline between successively larger sized units. This becomes apparent in table 9. It might also be expected that the numbers of workers hired would appear to change more abruptly in the smaller sized groups of farms, because a change of one family among farms hiring few families would tend to show more radical changes than a change of the same magnitude on larger farms on which more families are hired. Such change did occur and the apparently radical changes in the indices should be interpreted in this light.

A much greater change in the number of families hired on farms than is indicated in table 9 would be expected in this county, owing to the rapid advance of mechanization. However, the increasing importance of cotton and the decline of corn tended to offset that effect. Another factor has been the lack of other chances at work,

^{1/} For a more complete description of these types of laborers, see testimony on "The Sharecropper and Wage Laborer in Cotton Production," by E. J. Holcomb, presented before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor, U. S. Senate, pursuant to S. Res. 266, Washington, D. C., May 1940.

Table 8.- Number of farms owning workstock and number renting workstock,
by size groups 1/₁ of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936-40.
(Preliminary)

		Number				
		1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Owning Workstock: <u>2</u> / ₁						
Group I		21	23	31	33	33
Group II		24	29	30	30	30
Group III		24	28	29	29	29
Group IV		18	20	20	20	20
Renting Workstock: <u>3</u> / ₁						
Group I		2	3	3	3	3
Group II		0	0	0	0	0
Group III		0	0	0	0	0
Group IV		0	0	0	0	0
Owning & Renting:						
Group I		23	26	34	36	36
Group II		24	29	30	30	30
Group III		24	28	29	29	29
Group IV		18	20	20	20	20

1/For explanation of size groups see table 2.

2/Farms renting workstock in addition to owning workstock are included here.

3/Farms renting workstock only.

Table 9. Average number of subtenants and wage employees on farms and index of changes in numbers, by size groups of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936 - 1940 (Preliminary)

Item	Size : groups of : farms	Number					Index: 1936 = 100				
		1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Subtenant families	I	0.46	0.70	0.50	0.39	0.31	100.0	152.2	108.7	84.8	67.4
	II	1.32	2.07	1.80	1.80	1.87	100.0	156.8	136.4	136.4	141.7
	III	2.08	2.39	2.28	2.34	2.66	100.0	114.9	109.6	112.5	127.9
	IV	7.47	8.90	7.10	6.25	6.85	100.0	119.1	95.0	83.7	91.7
Wage families	I	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.17	0.25	100.0	175.0	225.0	425.0	625.0
	II	0.88	0.63	0.77	0.90	0.83	100.0	71.6	87.5	102.3	94.3
	III	1.25	1.32	1.65	1.76	1.69	100.0	105.6	132.0	140.8	135.2
	IV	3.37	4.35	5.90	6.25	6.35	100.0	129.1	175.1	185.5	188.4
Total families (Subtenants and wage families)	I	0.50	0.77	0.59	0.56	0.56	100.0	154.0	118.0	112.0	112.0
	II	2.20	2.70	2.57	2.70	2.70	100.0	122.7	116.8	122.7	122.7
	III	3.33	3.71	3.93	4.10	4.35	100.0	111.4	118.0	123.1	130.6
	IV	10.84	13.25	13.00	12.50	13.20	100.0	122.2	119.9	115.3	121.8
Single wage hands	I	0.04	0	0.06	0.06	0.17	100.0	0	150.0	150.0	425.0
	II	0.48	0.43	0.47	0.40	0.37	100.0	89.6	97.9	83.3	77.1
	III	0.58	0.57	0.45	0.35	0.34	100.0	98.3	77.6	60.3	58.6
	IV	0.26	0.60	0.55	0.25	0.20	100.0	230.8	211.5	96.2	76.9
Total (Total families and single wage hands)	I	0.54	0.77	0.65	0.62	0.73	100.0	142.6	120.4	114.8	135.2
	II	2.68	3.13	3.04	3.10	3.07	100.0	116.8	113.4	115.7	114.6
	III	3.91	4.28	4.38	4.45	4.69	100.0	109.5	112.0	113.8	119.9
	IV	11.10	13.85	13.55	12.75	13.40	100.0	124.8	122.1	114.9	120.7

for these people. Population pressure has enabled farmers to retain unnecessary families on a daily-wage basis or as sharecroppers on smaller tracts, in order that the families may be available for contingencies of rush work. Moreover, the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, together with Agricultural Adjustment Administration regulations, has tended to discourage reduction in the number of sub-tenants and croppers on those farms participating in the program. This is particularly noticeable for farms in Groups I and II (table 9). In Groups III and IV the additional cropland and the additional cotton acres were worked by wage families. This, apparently, was due to increased mechanization, the restraining A. A. A. regulation, and the necessity of sharing A. A. A. payments with share tenants.

It will be observed that no displacement has occurred in the total number of families, subtenant and wage families combined, so far as the 2 years 1940 and 1936 are concerned. However, by comparing 1937 with 1940, a slight displacement did occur in Groups I and IV; increases occurred in Group III. The increases are undoubtedly due to excessive planting of cotton under the volunteer cotton-reduction program of 1937, which precipitated the need for the marketing-quota type of program inaugurated in 1938.

Reductions in numbers of subtenants occurred between 1936 and 1940 in Groups I and IV. The reductions in Group I are related to changes in the average size of the farms but in Group IV the reduction is a result of a shift to wage labor for the most part, although it is partly attributable to a reduction in cotton acres.

Employment of single wage hands was relatively insignificant on all farms. Changes in their numbers were slight in most instances, and their inclusion does not affect the generalization above with respect to numbers of subtenants and wage families combined.

Operator and Sub-tenant Cotton and Corn

Variations in cotton acreage as between operators and sub-tenants have been slight over the 5-year period of this study. Acreages of sub-tenant cotton have declined in Groups I, III and IV, but they have increased in Group II (table 10). Operator cotton, on the other hand, declined in Group I, only. The decline in sub-tenant cotton seems closely associated with the decline in the average acres of cotton per farm for Group I, and, conversely, the increase in sub-tenant cotton in Group II seems closely associated with the increase in cotton acreages for the farm. In Groups III and IV, however, the changes have been made in favor of operator cotton acreage.

As would be expected, as the number of sub-tenants has remained fairly constant and the acreage of sub-tenant cotton has declined,

Table 10. Average acres of cotton and average acres of operator and sub-tenant cotton per farm, by size groups 1/ of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936-40. (Preliminary)

Item	Acres				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
<u>Total cotton acreage</u>					
Group I	21.6	27.8	17.2	17.9	18.4
Group II	55.6	83.6	54.7	58.9	61.2
Group III	79.1	107.5	82.9	90.2	97.8
Group IV	247.2	316.9	247.7	211.0	235.9
<u>Operator cotton acreage</u>					
Group I	15.2	18.4	10.0	12.5	14.6
Group II	32.8	38.5	27.5	29.9	33.0
Group III	32.1	48.8	36.6	45.3	51.7
Group IV	77.5	82.4	90.7	77.8	104.0
<u>Sub-tenant cotton acreage</u>					
Group I	6.4	9.4	7.2	5.4	3.8
Group II	22.8	45.1	27.2	29.0	28.2
Group III	47.0	58.7	46.3	44.9	46.1
Group IV	169.2	234.5	157.0	133.2	131.9

1/ For explanation of size groups see table 2.

Table 11. Average acres of cotton on farms having sub-tenants, by size groups 1/ of farms and for sharecroppers and share tenants of operators, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936-40. 2/ (Preliminary)

Item	Acres				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
<u>Sharecroppers-</u>					
Group I	30.1	24.6	20.0	19.4	15.4
Group II	33.5	58.1	28.9	42.2	35.7
Group III	64.3	65.1	49.2	45.6	47.7
Group IV	147.4	192.2	121.1	97.9	113.6
Group average	80.5	88.6	55.0	55.5	55.4
<u>Share tenant-</u>					
Group I	2.3	7.4	7.7	10.0	7.3
Group II	68.0	37.5	26.4	17.2	15.0
Group III	70.4	81.2	51.6	42.7	40.0
Group IV	119.6	158.0	120.4	100.1	102.5
Group average	86.4	92.4	64.7	54.5	56.7
<u>Sub-tenant-</u>					
Group I	25.4	20.2	17.4	17.7	13.8
Group II	38.1	61.5	35.5	45.8	38.5
Group III	75.3	78.2	58.4	54.2	58.1
Group IV	179.1	246.8	157.0	148.0	146.6
Group average	94.0	104.8	69.3	69.9	67.9

1/ For explanation of size groups see table 2.

2/ In group III 1937 one tenant sharecropped cotton, therefore he was classed as a cropper. 1 cropper in group III-1936 and 1 tenant in group II-1937 had corn only--no cotton acreage.

Table 12. Average acres of corn per farm, by size groups 1/ of farms and by operator and sub-tenant acreages, and corn acreages per sub-tenant, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936-40. (Preliminary)

Item	:	Acres				
		1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
<u>Total corn acres</u>	:					
Group I	:	22.7	11.6	13.3	12.8	10.9
Group II	:	69.6	47.4	60.5	51.3	47.1
Group III	:	113.9	105.5	100.3	86.8	83.1
Group IV	:	204.0	178.5	199.4	173.2	173.8
<u>Operator corn acres</u>	:					
Group I	:	21.6	10.7	12.4	11.8	10.8
Group II	:	61.4	37.9	45.8	39.6	36.9
Group III	:	89.4	93.0	87.9	71.0	63.2
Group IV	:	162.2	137.7	143.7	133.7	135.5
<u>Sub-tenant corn acres</u>	:					
Group I	:	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8
Group II	:	8.2	9.5	14.7	11.7	10.2
Group III	:	24.5	12.5	12.4	15.8	19.9
Group IV	:	41.8	40.8	55.7	39.5	38.3
<u>Corn acreage per sub-tenant</u>	:					
Group I	:	2.4	1.3	1.8	2.6	2.6
Group II	:	6.2	4.6	8.2	6.5	5.5
Group III	:	11.8	5.2	5.4	6.8	7.5
Group IV	:	5.6	4.6	7.8	6.3	5.6

1/ For explanation of size groups see Table 2.

Table 13. Average acres of corn on farms having sub-tenant,
by size groups ^{1/} of farms and for sharecropper
and share tenants of operators, New Madrid County,
Missouri, 1936-40. (Preliminary)

Item	Acres				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Sub-tenants (croppers and share-tenants					
Group I	26.0	26.0	10.8	11.0	9.5
Group II	51.1	35.5	43.9	38.9	38.0
Group III	58.7	43.6	45.1	51.0	63.9
Group IV	113.6	90.6	111.3	98.6	85.1
Sharecroppers					
Group I	26.0	26.0	10.1	10.3	11.8
Group II	51.1	36.1	42.2	32.2	32.4
Group III	51.5	49.5	24.5	42.4	50.6
Group IV	58.4	28.3	55.2	55.2	20.1
Share tenants (includes some cash returns)					
Group I	--	--	12.0	12.4	5.0
Group II	--	31.4	29.8	31.0	25.8
Group III	61.7	41.6	52.6	41.1	34.1
Group IV	106.1	104.3	118.4	104.8	90.7

^{1/} For explanation of size groups see Table 2.

the acreage of cotton per sub-tenant has declined in each group. The most radical changes, in this respect, have occurred among sub-tenants other than sharecroppers (table 11).

Changes in sub-tenant cotton acres have not been compensated by increases in acreages of other crops. On the other hand, corn acreages have declined for sub-tenants in all groups (table 12). Corn is the only other crop of importance to sharecroppers.

The downward trend in acreages of cotton and corn per sub-tenant tends to have the effect of reducing the sub-tenant's income. Particularly would this appear to be true under the condition of increase of the number of wage families and increase in mechanization on these farms. Moreover, operators more frequently use their own tractor equipment on sub-tenant tracts of land. Tabulations are incomplete at this time, but it is already apparent from the data that sub-tenants are rapidly losing chances for employment because of this. It is customary for the operator to assess certain charges against the sub-tenant's share of the crop as compensation for the use of the operator's tractor on the sub-tenant tract.

Changes with Cropland Held Constant

It is possible to study the changes in each size group of farms in relation to each other by casting the data on a 1,000 acres of cropland basis (table 14). The advantage of this technique lies in the ability to study relative changes, and, to a limited extent, to study potential changes.

Cotton acreage for Group I farms increased 82.3 acres per 1,000 acres of cropland, between 1936 and 1940, as compared with an increase of 16.5 acres for Group II farms, an increase of 29.9 acres for Group III farms and a decrease of 40.3 acres on Group IV farms. Operator cotton acreages increased in three of the four groups. On Group I farms, the operator increased his own cotton acreage by 89.7 acres and reduced his sub-tenant's cotton by 7.4 acres. This meant that all of the farms increase in cotton acreage was absorbed by the operator and, in addition, the operators took over 7.4 acres from their sub-tenants on each 1,000 acres of cropland. On Group II farms, the operators reduced their own cotton acreage by 5.9 acres and increased their sub-tenants acreage by 22.4. On Group III farms, all of the 29.9 acres increase for the farm plus 13.9 acres of sub-tenant cotton were added to the operators crops, accounting for 43.8 acres of cotton added to the operator's crops. In the case of Group IV farms, the sub-tenants absorbed not only the total decrease of 40.3 acres of cotton per 1,000 acres of cropland, but in addition, the operator took 25.3 acres from them.

Table 14. Changes per 1000 acres of cropland in numbers of acres of cotton, corn, numbers of sub-tenant and wage families, and numbers of tractors and workstock by size groups of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936-40. (Preliminary)

Item	Numbers				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
<u>Cotton</u>					
Group I	282.0	503.4	332.2	354.1	364.3
Group II	291.9	425.4	272.9	299.6	308.4
Group III	227.1	282.5	211.9	236.3	257.0
Group IV	339.1	433.3	322.4	266.9	298.8
<u>Operator cotton</u>					
Group I	199.0	332.6	193.7	247.0	288.7
Group II	172.1	195.9	137.0	152.0	166.2
Group III	92.0	128.2	93.6	118.8	135.8
Group IV	106.4	112.7	118.0	98.4	131.7
<u>Sub-tenant cotton</u>					
Group I	83.0	170.8	138.5	107.1	75.6
Group II	119.8	229.5	135.9	147.6	142.2
Group III	135.1	154.3	118.3	117.5	121.2
Group IV	232.7	320.6	204.4	168.5	167.1
<u>Corn</u>					
Group I	296.3	209.9	258.1	252.5	215.1
Group II	364.9	241.4	301.4	260.9	237.2
Group III	327.0	277.4	256.3	227.5	218.4
Group IV	279.8	244.0	259.5	219.1	220.2
<u>Operator corn</u>					
Group I	282.1	194.2	239.7	234.4	199.3
Group II	322.0	193.2	228.5	201.5	186.1
Group III	256.8	244.6	224.6	186.1	166.2
Group IV	222.4	188.3	187.1	169.2	171.7

Table 14. Changes per 1000 acres of cropland in numbers of acres of cotton, corn, numbers of sub-tenant and wage families, and numbers of tractors and workstock by size groups of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936-40. (Preliminary.) - Continued

Item	Numbers				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
<u>Sub-tenant families</u>					
Group I	6.0	12.7	9.7	7.7	6.0
II	6.9	10.5	9.0	9.2	9.4
III	6.0	6.3	5.8	6.1	7.0
IV	10.3	12.2	9.2	7.9	8.7
<u>Wage families</u> (except single hands)					
Group I	0.5	1.2	1.7	3.3	4.9
II	4.6	3.2	3.8	4.6	4.2
III	3.6	3.5	4.2	4.6	4.4
IV	4.6	5.9	7.7	7.9	8.0
<u>Total, (incl. single hands)</u>					
Group I	7.1	13.9	12.5	12.1	14.3
II	14.1	16.0	15.1	15.8	15.5
III	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.7	12.3
IV	15.2	18.9	17.6	16.1	17.0
<u>Tractors, (owned and rented)</u>					
Group I	2.2	4.2	5.1	7.1	11.0
II	3.8	4.7	4.2	4.7	5.5
III	2.6	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.4
IV	1.9	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.6
<u>Workstock</u>					
Group I	44.1	47.1	58.1	59.9	57.7
II	34.2	31.7	30.2	31.4	30.7
III	34.1	28.6	31.8	32.0	34.3
IV	28.3	31.6	27.8	25.0	24.7

These changes, actually, did not reduce the numbers of sub-tenants on the farms except in Group IV where a reduction of 1.6 sub-tenants occurred. Rather, the effect of the reduction in sub-tenant cotton was absorbed by an increased number of sub-tenants. If 1936 data on acres of cotton per sub-tenant are assumed as the standard it is possible to calculate the effective reduction in numbers of sub-tenants. On this basis, the reduction of 7.4 sub-tenant cotton acres for Group I, between 1936 and 1940, had the effect of reducing the number of sub-tenants by 0.5 families per 1,000 acres of cropland. Similarly, on Group II farms the effect was to increase the number of sub-tenants by 0.6 families. On Group IV farms, the effect amounted to a reduction of 2.9 sub-tenant families per 1,000 acres of cropland.

All farms decreased their acreage of corn per 1,000 acres of cropland and in all groups except Group II, sub-tenant corn was decreased, also. In the case of Group II farms a negligible increase occurred for sub-tenants. [Thus, increasing the effective reduction of sub-tenants.]

Actual reduction in the number of sub-tenants per 1,000 acres of cropland between 1936 and 1940 occurred in Group IV only. No change occurred for Group I farms, and increases occurred in Groups II and III by 2.5 and 1.0 families, respectively. In Group IV, the reduction amounted to 1.6 families per 1,000 acres of cropland.

Increases occurred in the number of wage families in all groups except Group II, where a reduction of 0.4 families per 1,000 acres of cropland occurred. Group I farms increased from 0.5 to 4.9, a net of 4.4 families per 1,000 acres of cropland. Group III farms increased 0.8 families, and Group IV farms increased 3.4 families.

Including single wage hands on an equal basis with sub-tenant and wage families, increases in the number of hired workers occurred in all groups. The greatest increase occurred in Group I, which amounted to 7.2 hired workers or families. Increases in the other 3 groups ranged between 1.1 and 1.8 workers or families.

Tractorization of farms, including both rented and owned tractors irrespective of operations on which rented tractors were engaged, increased on the smaller farms, successively. Between 1.9 and 3.8 tractors were used per 1,000 acres of cropland in 1936, but in 1940 the range was between 2.6 and 11.0 tractors.

Increases in workstock per 1,000 acres of cropland were significant on Group I farms, but were negligible on Group III farms. Significant decreases occurred on Group II and IV farms.

In effect, then, there has been no physical displacement of workers and only a nominal reduction in numbers of sub-tenants. Actually, there has been increasing population pressure on the land but with a reduction of acreages of crops for sub-tenants without proportional increases in operator crops for adequate employment of the wage laborers.

Hired workers, including sub-tenants, were slightly more numerous on the farms in the larger size groups, per 1,000 acres of cropland, but the greatest number of families was employed on the farms in the smaller size groups, when the operators family is included. However, employment in terms of work units available for the families would appear to have been greater on farms in the larger size groups. This particular topic is discussed later in this report.

Employment of Sub-tenants and Laborers

Operators of farms in each size group estimated the number of days of employment received by their share tenants, sharecroppers, and wage laborers. The estimates were distributed between employment on the sub-tenants tracts and wage employment secured by sub-tenants and wage laborers on the operators farm. According to these estimates, share tenants and sharecroppers on farms in Groups II and III received the greatest amount of work on the tracts they farmed and at wage employment for their operators, compared with the other two groups. This appears to be logical from the foregoing discussion of acreage changes in relation to numbers of families.

Wage workers obtained the greatest amount of employment on farms in Groups III and IV. This also appears to be logical from the foregoing data. Groups III and IV farms tended to increase the operator crops of cotton as the size of the farms increased. Group IV farms actually reduced the number of sub-tenant families, but they increased the number of wage laborers the least, considering increases in acres of crop land. Operators of farms in group I must have given their laborers a considerable amount of the work which they could have done themselves, in order for their workers to have secured as much wage work (Table 15).

Earnings of workers, it will be observed, must necessarily be low even by their operator's estimate of days worked. During 1940, few families received as much as 200 days of work. This means that wage earnings of families can be expected to fall below \$200 per year, for few labor families reported wage rates exceeding \$1 per day. A more complete discussion of earnings and income of sub-tenants and wage workers, based upon records received from the workers themselves, occurs later in this report.

Workers Related to Operators

Of the 1804 regular and seasonal-worker families hired on the 115 farms included in this study 57 were related to the operators. Forty-seven were regular workers and 10 were seasonal workers (Table 16). Nearly one-fourth of the 94 farms having worker families, reported that some of these families were related to the operator but only 47 of the 522 regular worker families were related. Only 10 of the 1,282 seasonal laborers employed on 105 farms hiring seasonal labor were related to their employer. The 10 seasonal laborers were employed on farms in Groups I and II.

Table 15. Number of farms reporting share tenants, share croppers and wage families, estimated days worked on own crops by share tenants and sharecroppers, number of share tenants and share croppers securing wage work from operators, and estimated days wage work secured by share tenants, sharecroppers securing wage work from operators, and estimated days wage work secured by share tenants, share croppers and wage families, by size groups 1 of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri.
(Preliminary)

Group	Number : of : Records	Number Reporting : Sh. Ten. : Sh. Croppers	Average days work- : ed on own crop	Number securing : wage work	Average number days wage : week provided for:--	Wage Fam.					
I	36	2	8	7	112.0	118.3	0	3	0	56.7	177.3
II	30	4	22	19	173.3	137.0	0	41	0	59.6	158.5
III	29	6	23	19	153.3	130.1	6	66	69.9	77.0	182.8
IV	20	8	16	16	129.3	104.8	1	92	40.0	72.6	202.5
Total	115	20	69	61	137.8	120.1	7	202	65.6	71.2	191.3

1/ See table 2 for explanation of size groups of farms.

Table 16. Number of farms reporting worker families, numbers of worker families employed, number of farms reporting worker families related to operator and number of families related to operator, by size groups 1/ of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1940. (Preliminary)

Size Group	All Workers				Workers related to operator			
	No records secured	Farms reporting	No workers	Seasonal workers	Regular workers	Seasonal workers	No workers	Seasonal workers
Group I	36	15	26	30	183	2	2	3 8
Group II	30	30	92	30	311	11	22	1 2
Group III	39	29	136	29	416	5	9	0 0
Group IV	20	20	268	20	372	5	14	0 0

1/ See table 2 for explanation of size groups.

Turnover of Workers

Workers on farms in New Madrid County are replaced at the rate of approximately 30 percent per year, based on data obtained in this study (Table 17). Replacements were greater during 1939 and 1940 than in 1938. It appears that replacements were greater on farms in the two smaller size groups than those in the large size groups. A part of this can be attributed to replacements of farm operators by the landlord or over-tenant, since farms of these sizes are more likely to be affected by such changes.

According to the operators of the farms, the following explanations are given for their families having left their farms:

- 4 families left because the Farm Security Administration accepted them in one of their programs.
- 6 families left because they were dissatisfied with working or living conditions.
- 7 families left to go to other farms with the farm's previous operator or similar reasons.
- 8 families for no particular reason.
- 11 families for "personal reasons of the tenant."
- 18 families for "personal reasons of the operator."
- 26 families left to improve their economic status or to search for better location, and,
- 35 left for no reason which the operator could give.

Undoubtedly one of the basic reasons for the heavy turnover of workers lies in the fact that the area is over populated for the type of agriculture and the degree of mechanization. Prices received for the basic commodities produced in the area have not been sufficient to maintain the population.

Source of Seasonal Labor

A high proportion of the seasonal laborers come from within a 5 mile radius of the farms in New Madrid County. Many of these workers are regular employees on other farms who have sufficient idle time to work elsewhere. Many are family members of sharecropper families whose tracts are so small that they must work for wages elsewhere to supplement the family income. Some of the workers and residents of nearby villages come out during the seasons of cotton chopping, hoeing, and picking. The area is sufficiently populated so that employers have little difficulty in getting ample labor (Table 18).

Just how many of these seasonal laborers are new arrivals who follow the crops is not actually known. A large number of workers come into the area during seasons and occupy vacant houses or camp near the farms.

Table 17. Number and percentage of turnover of workers by tenure groups and by size groups of farms,
New Madrid County, Missouri, 1938-40. (Preliminary)

Operator Schedules	1938				1939				1940			
	No. families		Turn over		No. families		Turn over		No. families		Turn over	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Group I	14	21.4	3	30.0	10	30.0	3	30.0	9	22.2	2	22.2
II	40	42.5	17	42.5	47	17.0	8	17.0	50	32.0	16	32.0
III	56	8.9	5	8.9	56	30.4	17	30.4	68	27.9	19	27.9
IV	92	15.2	14	15.2	86	26.7	23	26.7	97	25.8	25	25.8
Total	202	19.3	39	19.3	199	25.6	51	25.6	224	27.7	62	27.7
Group I	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
II	14	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	6	-	-	-
III	10	-	-	-	12	33.3	4	33.3	9	44.4	4	44.4
IV	50	-	-	-	39	15.4	6	15.4	40	5.0	2	5.0
Total	77	-	-	-	62	16.1	10	16.1	57	10.5	6	10.5
Group I	5	-	-	-	8	25.0	2	25.0	15	6.7	1	6.7
II	37	21.6	8	21.6	39	10.3	4	10.3	36	5.6	2	5.6
III	61	14.8	9	14.8	61	24.6	15	24.6	59	37.3	22	37.3
IV	129	15.5	20	15.5	130	14.6	19	14.6	131	17.6	23	17.6
Total	232	15.9	37	15.9	238	16.8	40	16.8	241	19.9	48	19.9

1/ Turnover is defined here as the number of families having left the farm and were replaced by new families.
2/ See table 2 for explanation of size groups.

Table 18. Numbers of farms securing specified proportions of their seasonal laborers from within specified radii of their farms and the number securing specified proportions from non-local points within the state and from out-of-state points, by size groups ^{1/} of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1939-40. (Preliminary)

Item	0 - 4.9		5 - 15		More than		State		Outside	
	Miles		Miles		15 miles		Non Local		State	
	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940
Group I										
Percent										
0-25	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
26-50	2	5	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	2
51-75	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
76-100	24	21	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Group II										
Percent										
0-25	2	2	3	2	3	3	1	1	3	3
26-50	6	6	0	1	3	3	0	1	4	3
51-75	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1
76-100	16	15	3	3	0	1	0	0	2	2
Group III										
Percent										
0-25	3	2	4	3	0	1	1	0	4	3
26-50	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	4	2
51-75	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
76-100	14	15	4	4	1	0	0	0	2	1
Group IV										
0-25	5	4	3	3	1	1	2	2	2	1
26-50	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2
51-75	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
76-100	8	10	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

^{1/} See table 2 for explanation of size groups.

The data presented here are subject to some bias because operators find little reason to inquire about the workers' domicile. The figures represent the distance which operators must go to secure workers. The operators who knew that their workers were from non-local points reported this fact but those who did not know reported local points. More of them reported workers from outside the State than from non-local points within Missouri. This seems to indicate that more of the non-local workers were following the cotton crop from the South northward.

The years 1939 and 1940 were considered unusual so far as migrant laborers were concerned. In 1940, particularly, fewer workers were said to have come to the area because of the late maturity of the crop. Farmers indicated that had the study been made for earlier years, greater importance would have been shown for migrant labor.

Table 19. Numbers of operators securing specified percentages of their workers by their own and by worker solicitation for key operations, for regular, local seasonal laborers and non-local seasonal labor, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1940. (Preliminary)

Item	Number of operators					
	Preparation		Chopping and		Harvesting	
	and Planting		Hoeing			
	Operator:Worker	Operator:Worker	Operator:Worker	Operator:Worker	Operator:Worker	Operator:Worker
Regular Labor:						
100%	10	49	11	46	11	43
83%	-	1	1	1	1	1
50%	1	1	-	-	-	1
17%	1	-	-	-	-	-
Local Seasonal Labor						
100%	-	-	44	25	52	32
98%	-	-	1	-	1	-
75%	-	-	1	-	1	-
60%	-	-	1	-	1	-
50%	-	-	2	2	6	6
40%	-	-	-	1	-	1
25%	-	-	-	1	-	1
2%	-	-	-	1	-	1
Non-local Seasonal Labor						
100%	-	-	3	1	12	18
90%	1	-	-	-	-	-
50%	-	-	-	-	2	2
10%	-	1	-	-	-	-

Table 20. Number of farms having specified proportions of white workers,
New Madrid County, Missouri, 1940 (Preliminary)

Item	Percentage of white workers			
	0 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 75	76 - 100
	Number	Number	Number	Number
Regular workers	10	11	2	46
Seasonal workers				
Local	18	19	7	59
Non-local	9	2	1	21

Method of Securing Labor

All of the workers on the farms included in this study were employed either by solicitation on the part of the workers or by the operators themselves. The operators hired most of the regular workers as a result of workers searching out the jobs, whereas most of the seasonal laborers were hired as a result of the operators seeking out the workers (Table 19).

By far a greater proportion of the workers, on farms included in this study, were white. Forty-eight of the 59 farms hiring regular workers reported that between 50 percent and 100 percent of their workers were white. Sixty-six of the 103 farms hiring local seasonal laborers reported that at least half of their workers were white, and 22 of the 33 farms hiring non-local seasonal laborers reported that at least half of their workers were white. For each of the classes of labor (regular and seasonal), a high proportion of the farms reported that all of their workers were white. Evidence of this is shown in table 20 by the large numbers of farms listed in the 76-100 percent column, indicating that between 76 percent and 100 percent of the workers on these farms were white.

Source of Seasonal Labor

Most of the farmers included in this study got their off-farm labor from within New Madrid County, but a few secured it elsewhere. Practically all farm operators reported that they drew all or part of their laborers from within the group of counties in Southeastern Missouri, but eight operators secured some of their seasonal workers from other States, including Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Louisiana (Table 21).

Eight percent of the farm operators included in the study stated that they had made no change in the source of their seasonal labor during the past 5 years. Ten reported that they were getting labor from non-local points now, whereas earlier they had used local labor. Seven farmers had changed from non-local labor to local labor.

Table 21. Numbers of farm operators securing their seasonal labor from specified sources, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1940.

Source	: :Number:	Source	: :Number
New Madrid County	: 80	New Madrid County and:	:
Other Southeastern Missouri:	:	other Southeast Missouri Counties:	8
Counties	: 8	Other States	: 3
Elsewhere in Missouri	: 2	Other Southeastern counties and	:
Points outside Missouri	: 3	other States	: 1
	:	Elsewhere in Missouri and other	:
	:	States	: 1

Use of State Employment Service

At the request of the United States Employment Service, which is affiliated with the Missouri State Employment Service, the questions, "Did you use the State Employment Service" and "If not, why not," were added to the field schedule. The Farm Placement Service of the Missouri State Employment Service is still a very young organization. Within the last 2 or 3 years, the service has made a concerted effort to supply farmers with laborers and much has been accomplished.

As the reports were tabulated, 81 farmers reported that labor was so plentiful that they did not need to call upon the employment service, 4 did not know of its existence or were under the impression that a charge would be made for each worker supplied, and 10 did not believe that the service supplied good workers, or they preferred to select their own workers. Two farmers had used the service and were satisfied. Eighteen records did not give answers to the questions, of which 9 employed no workers. The other 9 probably did not know the service existed.

This lack of use of the employment service indicates a need of additional educational programs directed at employer and employee groups, so that the service may be more useful in distributing the supply of laborers. Employing farmers apparently feel that the service should be used only when labor is short, whereas, such an organization is as useful and sometimes more useful to workers, employers, and communities when it can redirect surpluses of laborers.

Mobility of Farm Operators

A high proportion (72 percent) of the farm operators included in the study began their farming experience in New Madrid County or had been in the county for 20 years or more. The tabulations showed that 83 either began their tenure history in the county or were there during the past 20 years. Twelve others began in other counties in southeastern Missouri, while seven had come to the county from Mississippi and Red River delta counties of Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Only three came from the mountainous parts of Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, while 18 others came from various other States (Table 22). The delta areas of Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, combined, supplied 103 of the 115 farmers. The Ozark areas supplied only 3 of these. Most of the 18 farmers from the other sections of the country came from the Corn Belt group of States and from Kentucky.

Analysis of these data by size groups of farms fails to show any striking difference in connection with the origin of the operators. One obvious factor is that only one of the farmers in Group IV has had less than 10 years of tenure history. In this case the young operator's father had bought the farm for him. One or two similar instances were found among young operators in Group III. Aside from these observations, there appears to be no connection between years of farming experience or years of farming experience in the area and one's ability to progress beyond particular sizes of operations. More than half of the operators in each size group of farms have had more than 15 years of experience in the area. The factors of ability, capital, and chance, appear to be more influential.

Table 22. Location of farm operators at beginning of their tenure history or 20 years ago by size groups of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri. (Preliminary).

Size groups of farms		Years :	Numbers reporting tenure origin by specified localities					
		of :	New Madrid :	Other south-:	Mississippi and:	Hill areas of :		
		Tenure :	County, Mo.:	eastern Mo. :	Red River Delta:	Missouri, Ark-:	Elsewhere	
		History:	Counties :	Counties :	Counties :	Counties :	ansas, Oklahoma:	
Total	:	:	83	13	7	3	18	:
All Groups	:	0 - 5	4	0	0	1	0	:
	:	6 - 10	8	0	0	0	2	:
	:	11-15	8	1	1	0	0	:
	:	16-20	5	4		0	3	:
	:	Over 20	48	8	6	2	13	:
Group I	:	0 - 5	2	0	0	0	0	:
	:	6 - 10	2	0	0	0	1	:
	:	11-15	3	1	0	0	0	:
	:	16-20	2	1	0	0	1	:
	:	Over 20	16	1	1	1	4	:
Group II	:	0 - 5	0	0	0	1	0	:
	:	6 - 10	2	0	0	0	0	:
	:	11-15	3	0	0	0	0	:
	:	16-20	1	1	2	0	1	:
	:	Over 20	13	3	2	0	3	:
Group III	:	0 - 5	1	0	0	0	0	:
	:	6 - 10	4	0	0	0	1	:
	:	11-15	0	0	1	0	0	:
	:	16-20	1	0	0	0	1	:
	:	Over 20	10	3	1	1	5	:
Group IV	:	0 - 5	1	0	0	0	0	:
	:	6 - 10	0	0	0	0	0	:
	:	11-15	2	0	0	0	0	:
	:	16-20	1	2	0	0	0	:
	:	Over 20	9	1	2	0	1	:

Farm operators included in the study have moved less than three times during that part of their tenure history that falls in the last 20 years (Table 23). Operators with the longer history have moved less frequently than those with shorter experience. This stands out particularly among those having more than 20 years of tenure history in Group IV. This particular group of farmers have moved 0.07 times each, per year, or less than a move in 10 years.

Farmers included in the larger size groups of farms have moved less frequently than those on smaller farms, but the difference is slight. Most of the farmers with less than 5 years of tenure history are still on their first farms, while those with between 6 and 10 years of experience have moved an average of $1\frac{1}{2}$ times. More than half the moves made by the latter were made by three farmers in Group I. Those with between 11 and 15 years of experience have moved an average of 3.8 times with farmers in each size group having moved between 3 and 6 times.

During the last 10 years, farmers in smaller size groups of farms moved more frequently than those on larger farms. According to the farmers, the moves resulted in an improvement in their economic status slightly more frequently than was the opposite (Table 24). Approximately half of the moves in each size group were made because land conditions, purchase of a farm, or because the farmer rented a larger farm in the case of those reporting a move to their advantage. Moves made to improve tenure status accounted for between 20 percent and 50 percent of the moves within the various size groups of farms. Housing was another influential factor for farms in the two smaller size groups.

The most important factors causing moves to the farmer's disadvantage was foreclosure, high rents, or the sale of farm by the landlord to another party. A second factor, important among farmers in the two smaller size groups, was housing and working conditions.

Changes in tenure status occurred half as frequently as moves from farm to farm. Farmers in the larger size groups tend to change their status less frequently than those in the smaller size groups (Table 25). Those in Group I have changed their status an average of more than twice during their histories, but within the past 20 years. Those in this size group with more than 10 years of experience have changed status much more frequently than was the case of farmers with comparable tenure histories in larger size groups. Farmers with less than 10 years of experience in all size groups have changed tenure status very little, and little difference is shown between size groups for them.

Table 23. Numbers of times farm operators have moved during their tenure history, but within the past 20 years, by size groups of farms 1/ New Madrid County, Missouri. (Preliminary).

Years of tenure history	: Number of operators	: Number of moves
Total	114	309
All groups		
0- 5	5	2
6-10	10	15
11-15	10	38
16-20	12	46
Over 20	77	208
Group I	36	129
0- 5	2	0
6-10	3	8
11-15	4	12
16-20	4	27
Over 20	23	82
Group II	30	77
0- 5	1	2
6-10	2	1
11-15	3	11
16-20	3	6
Over 20	21	57
Group III	29	80
0- 5	1	0
6-10	5	6
11-15	1	4
16-20	2	9
Over 20	20	61
Group IV	19	43
0- 5	1	0
6-10	0	0
11-15	2	11
16-20	3	14
Over 20	13	18

1/ See table 2 for explanation of size groups.

Table 24. Reasons for moves made during the past ten years, by size groups 1/ of farms, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1940 (Preliminary)

Reasons for moves	Number Reporting by Size Groups			
	Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV
<u>Economic Betterment:</u>	30	20	17	12
(a) Purchased land, more land, or better land	13	11	9	5
(b) Better landlord	0	0	2	0
(c) Better housing or conditions	6	5	0	1
(d) Improvement of tenure status	10	4	5	6
(e) Better H.C.P. allotment	1	0	1	0
<u>Economic Loss</u>	26	16	16	11
(a) Flood, drought, or crop failure	4	1	3	3
(b) Foreclosure, farm sold or rents too high	9	9	10	4
(c) Housing, working conditions, unprofitability of farming, or just could not get place another year	8	4	1	2
(d) Loss of tenure status	4	0	1	2
(e) H.C.P. allotment too low	0	2	1	0
(f) Displaced or disagreement	1	0	0	0
<u>Neither Betterment nor Loss</u> (Personal reasons, health, relatives, caused move, or "just wanted to move")	5	3	4	4
<u>No Change in Location</u>	7	11	7	4
<u>No Reason Given</u>	1	3	1	5

1/ See table 2 for explanation of size groups.

Table 25. Number of changes in tenure status of operators during their experience, but within the past 20 years, by size groups of farms 1/, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1940. (Preliminary)

Years of tenure history	: Number of Operators	: Number of changes in : tenure status
Total	: 114	: 157
All groups	:	:
0- 5	: 5	: 3
6-10	: 10	: 7
11-15	: 10	: 16
16-20	: 12	: 26
Over 20	: 77	: 105
Group I	: 36	: 71
0- 5	: 2	: 1
6-10	: 3	: 4
11-15	: 4	: 8
16-20	: 4	: 16
Over 20	: 23	: 42
Group II	: 30	: 34
0- 5	: 1	: 2
6-10	: 2	: 0
11-15	: 3	: 1
16-20	: 3	: 4
Over 20	: 21	: 27
Group III	: 29	: 36
0- 5	: 1	: 0
6-10	: 5	: 3
11-15	: 1	: 3
16-20	: 2	: 2
Over 20	: 20	: 28
Group IV	: 19	: 16
0- 5	: 1	: 0
6-10	: 0	: 0
11-15	: 2	: 4
16-20	: 3	: 4
Over 20	: 13	: 8

1/ For explanations of size group see table 2.

PART IV. VARIATIONS IN SHARECROPPERS' ACREAGE SHARES

Prepared by Howard A. Turner

Far down on the tenure ladder in the land where the cotton is grown are the croppers and their families. Their one asset is labor. For their agreement to furnish it, they have obtained share interests in the crop. In the more intensive of the cotton-growing areas the tenure interests of croppers are mainly confined to cotton along with small patches of land for gardening, use of a cabin for the year, and the privilege of cutting wood with which to cook and keep warm wherever woodlands occupy any considerable part of the farm land. A minority of the croppers have an acreage interest in the corn but the enterprises other than cotton are enterprises that employers prefer to attend to themselves, or with hired labor, and in southeastern Missouri, this is usually true even of the cotton acreage. Some of this hired labor is furnished by cropper families, particularly by the cropper families who are assigned the smaller acreages of cotton.

The cotton crop requires the services of an enormous number of workers but the peak periods of labor in the crop may be got through by the use of about anyone who can handle a hoe at chopping time or pick or pull a boll of cotton at harvest time. Women and children do much of this peak-labor work of chopping and picking, and the cropper system makes it possible for them to do it close to their homes and on terms that make them feel that the more they accomplish the more they will have, as a family, at the end of the year.

Since before the Civil War there have been laborers who have contracted on behalf of their families as croppers in order that family members who could work might have convenient needed employment on desirable terms, arranging with the same employer to work personally as hired hands by the day or month whenever needed by him. It is unfortunate that little is known concerning the relative extent to which, in normal times, croppers have themselves been laborers for wages in essential aspects, taking the supplemental status of croppers primarily to meet the needs of their family for work. It is reasonable to believe that under present conditions a much larger proportion of croppers would qualify as members of this group than has been the case under more normal conditions existing in the past. Several factors are responsible for this.

To would-be cotton croppers' cuts in the cotton acreage through crop control must have meant less chance to get a place as croppers, and less chance to get enough of a cotton acreage to give anything like full work to the entire cropper family. Geared in 1925 and 1926 to the production of cotton on a large scale, as evidenced by the plantings of close to 45 millions of acres in those years, the cotton-growing enterprise of the country has taken enormous cuts. Ever since 1933 the cotton plantings have been less, by at least 10 millions of acres, than they were in 1925 and 1926.

Cuts in cotton acreage have largely come about in compliance with programs of the AAA; but the AAA program has otherwise affected relations between would-be croppers and prospective employers and in a way that is likely to lessen the opportunity of the cropper class still further. This has come about as a result of rulings to the effect that payments under the agricultural adjustment program for conformance with acreage allotments must be divided between landlords and sharecroppers, to the extent of their acreage interest in crops, in the same proportion that these persons are entitled at the time the crop is harvested, to share in the proceeds of the crops grown on the farm. Under this ruling employers have sometimes observed payments going to croppers large enough to have paid all the cost there would have been to have hired the work done up to the time of harvest. Realization of this situation would naturally tend to discourage employers from increasing acreages worked by croppers and they would tend to cut the cropper acreage and increase the wage-force acreage so far as it is practicable to do so.

A cropper family of ordinary size and composition can tend 20 acres of cotton quite well, and in so doing keep itself reasonably well employed. However, it probably will be necessary to hire extra labor during peak seasons. If from this acreage it can count on half of the crop for performing the labor, and if the crop runs around two-thirds of a bale or more per acre, it will be reasonably well paid for its labor, but not overpaid. For the Mississippi Delta area, 350 pounds per acre as the yield of lint is a fair assumption. Assuming, also, that he can sell the cotton at 10 cents a pound, the seed being taken to pay ginning and incidental farm-operating costs to the cropper, the result is only \$35 per acre. A cropper, in this area, with a 10-acre interest in the crop would realize a cotton-crop income of \$350 as pay for what he and his family did. To repay and hired labor he may have had to employ this income would be reduced. This is not much, but most cropper families have to live on less than this amount. The cotton-acreage interest of a group of 1,631 Missouri cotton croppers in New Madrid County amounted, all told, to only 14,325.6 acres (table 1) which, on an average, means only 8.8 acres of cotton per family. Supplemental to this, the group had an acreage interest in the corn amounting to 2,493.8 acres, or an average of 1.5 acres per cropper family.

The typical cropper in New Madrid County did not have so much as 8.8 acres of cotton per family or 1.5 acres of corn. The arithmetic average is affected by extreme items, and, in this instance, the majority of the croppers had less than 3.0 acres. The greatest number of croppers were included in the frequency class 3.0 to 3.9 acres. (Table 3) 498 croppers who had less than 5-acre interest in the cotton crop had an aggregate acreage interest in the cotton no greater than the 52 croppers who had the largest acreage interest in the cotton. (Table 2) All 52 of these croppers had at least 24.0 acres of cotton as their interest. And, what is more, the typical cropper had no interest in corn. Indeed only 466 of the 1,631 croppers had any interest in the corn acreage; that is, only 29 percent of the number.

It might not seem probable that any workers would take the status of croppers, if their acreage interest in the crop could amount to so little as 2 acres, but 44 of the 1,631 cropper interests were restricted to less than 2 acres of cotton. These workers, and most of the others with very small acreage interests in the cotton, were obviously not so much croppers as they were wage workers. There is only slight possibility that any of the 1,631 cropper interests presently examined belonged to any parties with a higher status than that of cropper or laborer. There were 27 persons of cropper status interested in cotton as croppers with supplemental interests in the cotton acreage under a higher status, but none of these 27 are counted in with the 1,631 croppers now under scrutiny.

In addition to the 44 croppers mentioned with less than a 2-acre interest there were 120 who had a 2-acre but less than a 3-acre interest in the crop, 168 with a 3-acre but less than a 4-acre interest, 166 with a 4-acre but less than a 5-acre interest, 149 with a 5-acre but less than a 6-acre interest, and so on, with a generally lessening number of croppers in each successively larger acreage interest group. (Table 3) Of the cropper interests, $30\frac{1}{2}$ percent were interests of less than 5 acres of cotton - interests so small that the income possibilities would seem to indicate that the status was taken more in order to furnish work for the wife and children of the cropper family than to furnish work for the head of the family. He, the cropper, it would seem, must have worked elsewhere for the operator for wages in order to obtain the supplemental income that the family must have needed. No doubt many of the croppers with somewhat larger than 5-acre interests in the cotton likewise had to take wage work in order to obtain needed income. Of all 1,631 cropper interests here studied, 68.6 percent were interests of less than 10 acres of cotton.

There were a few small-acreage interests in the cotton in the hands of those who were not croppers but only 9 percent of the interests held by non-croppers were interests of less than 5 acres of cotton, and only 26 percent were of less than 10 acres of cotton. Croppers had but a 4.0 percent interest in the corn acreage.

Table 1. - Numbers of sharecroppers having acreage share interests in cotton and corn, and their acreage shares, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1941. 1/ (Preliminary)

Item	Number of croppers	Percent of all croppers	Acreage share <u>2/</u>
Total	1,644	100.0	16,881.2
Cotton	1,631	99.2	14,325.6
Corn	479	29.1	2,555.6
Corn with no cotton	13	0.8	61.8

1/ The 1,644 cropper interests in cotton and corn here analyzed are those of croppers who had no other tenure interest in the crops save as they may have worked for wages. There were 32 other cropper interests in the cotton and corn, 27 of them interests in the cotton and 16 of them interests in the corn, that were held by parties, who, although with cropper status as respects cotton or corn, also held a status in the tenure groups above the cropper with non-cropper tenure interest in the cotton and/or corn on other acreage.

2/ Acreage share is the product of the total acres worked multiplied by the percentage of the crop accruing to the cropper. For example, assume that a cropper works 20 acres and that his share of the production is 50 percent, then, his acreage share would be 10.

Table 2. - Numbers of sharecroppers with specified acreage shares of cotton and corn, and the aggregate acreage shares, by frequency classes, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1941 1/ (Preliminary)

Frequency class (acres)	Croppers having				Acreage shares		
	Cotton		Corn		Cotton	Corn <u>2/</u>	
	Number	%	Number	%			
0.1 - 4.9	498	30.5	79	17.0	1,674.1	221.8	
5.0 - 9.9	621	38.1	198	42.4	4,469.5	788.2	
10.0 -14.9	293	18.0	110	23.6	3,556.2	567.3	
15.0 -19.9	145	8.9	40	8.6	2,502.2	345.3	
20.0 -24.9	42	2.6	20	4.3	920.0	190.0	
25.0 and over	52	1.9	19	4.1	1,200.5	381.2	
Total	1,631	100.0	466	100.0	14,325.6	2,493.8	

1/ See footnote 1/, Table 1, above.

2/ Excludes those having corn only.

Table 3. - Frequency distribution of numbers of sharecroppers with specified cotton acreage, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1941. 1/

Frequency class (acres)	:	Number	:	Frequency class (acres)	:	Number
Less than 1	:	6	:	14.0 - 14.9	:	48
1.0 - 1.9	:	38	:	15.0 - 15.9	:	36
2.0 - 2.9	:	120	:	16.0 - 16.9	:	27
3.0 - 3.9	:	168	:	17.0 - 17.9	:	33
4.0 - 4.9	:	166	:	18.0 - 18.9	:	29
5.0 - 5.9	:	149	:	19.0 - 19.9	:	20
6.0 - 6.9	:	128	:	20.0 - 24.9	:	42
7.0 - 7.9	:	140	:	25.0 - 29.9	:	12
8.0 - 8.9	:	109	:	30.0 - 34.9	:	7
9.0 - 9.9	:	95	:	35.0 - 39.9	:	5
10.0 - 10.9	:	84	:	40.0 - 49.9	:	3
11.0 - 11.9	:	52	:	50.0 - 59.9	:	1
12.0 - 12.9	:	74	:	60.0 - 69.9	:	3
13.0 - 13.9	:	35	:	70.0 and over	:	1

1/ See footnote 1, table 1, preceding page.

PART V. - ANALYSIS OF SUB-TENANT
AND WAGE LABORER RECORDS

Prepared by J.C. Folsom, E. J. Holcomb, and G. M. Murray

Employment and Earnings of Cotton Farm Workers
in Southeastern Missouri 1/

Cotton farm workers in Southeastern Missouri are seriously underemployed during much of the year. This can be demonstrated from the standpoint of the families as a whole, as well as from that of individual workers.

The total amount of employment of any kind per family was barely over a man-year (376.60 man-days) in 1940 in share-tenant families, the most largely employed group considered here. (Table 1.) In other groups, one person would have put in as much time by himself as did all workers in his family. Sharecropper families averaged 280.94 days. These two classes have interest in their crops and crop-season attachment to them. But wage laborers did not fare so well. The families of regular 2/ laborers had 253.12 man days of work. Casual worker families, such as cotton choppers and pickers reported 166.43 and 207.62 man-days respectively.

The families were all comparatively idle in January and February. Their peak of employment came in October when cotton picking can and often does use every member of the family, young and old, whole hands and part hands. In that month the families averaged at best $3\frac{1}{2}$ times as many man-days as in January.

Of the families included in this tabulation, share renters averaged 5.7 persons; share croppers, 4.6; regular laborers, 3.7; cotton choppers, 3.3; and cotton pickers, 2.7. Data are not yet available concerning numbers of actual workers per family. Assuming half of these were potential workers, their employment in man-days per individual worker in 1940 would have averaged 132 from share renter families; 122 from share croppers; 137 from regular laborer families; 101 from cotton choppers; and 154 from those of cotton pickers. On the basis of a 300 working-day year, they were unemployed from half to three-fifths of the time.

More concretely, employment for individual heads of families can be considered. It was much steadier than for their families as a whole. Still, in the busiest months of the year they worked from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ times

1/ The data upon which this discussion is based were from special preliminary tabulations of figures obtained by a survey in New Madrid County, the field work of the survey was completed in October 1941. The data obtained comes from persons classified according to their employment when interviewed in 1941. Many did other work in 1940. Most of them were the heads of families, both white and colored; a few were Spanish-Americans. It should be noted that farm wages in 1941 have been somewhat higher than a year earlier. Day wages rose from 75 cents to \$1 - \$1.25; cotton chopping, from 75 cents and \$1 to \$1 and \$1.25; cotton picking, from 75 cents per hundredweight to \$1.25-1.50. These increases gave laborers somewhat larger earnings this year, even though there may have been less actual employment of wage laborers in terms of man-days because of weather and crop conditions.

2/ Hired for most or all of the year, and often living on the employer's farm.

Table 1

- 2 -

Man-days: Average numbers worked by specified classes of families
on farms in New Madrid County, Missouri, by months, 1940.

(Preliminary data from survey by Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Farm
Security Administration, and Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station,
cooperation)

Class of worker	Month or year	Persons interviewed as				
		Share	Share	Regular	Casual cot-	Casual cotton
		tenants	croppers	laborers	ton choppers	pickers
		(24 reports)	(25 reports)	(25 reports)	(21 reports)	(26 reports)
		(Man-days)	(Man-days)	(Man-days)	(Man-days)	(Man-days)
Head of family	Jan.	3.12	3.64	8.08	3.86	7.54
	Feb.	4.30	4.60	10.00	4.48	8.50
	Mar.	12.73	11.08	12.62	8.24	11.00
	Apr.	16.09	17.44	17.04	10.86	11.81
	May	18.75	19.88	18.40	9.14	11.77
	June	20.37	21.74	18.92	11.45	13.88
	July	17.29	20.02	18.30	6.81	9.88
	Aug.	10.67	12.38	13.44	4.10	7.00
	Sept.	12.21	12.72	14.04	6.83	10.23
	Oct.	17.54	18.72	19.16	14.74	17.50
	Nov.	16.41	17.52	18.16	13.83	12.46
	Dec.	13.37	14.32	14.24	11.71	9.69
Family members other than head	Jan.	.92	.64	.08	2.19	2.19
	Feb.	1.37	.80	.60	3.33	2.08
	Mar.	5.71	1.24	1.24	1.62	2.38
	Apr.	7.67	1.24	2.28	1.62	2.08
	May	18.25	8.88	6.80	4.24	3.58
	June	29.83	19.44	9.64	4.72	7.92
	July	23.29	11.44	5.20	3.10	5.69
	Aug.	7.29	1.56	2.00	2.10	3.50
	Sept.	20.83	7.72	4.52	4.90	5.81
	Oct.	48.38	23.04	17.80	14.28	16.73
	Nov.	32.92	18.88	14.16	11.71	13.81
	Dec.	17.29	12.00	6.40	6.57	10.58
All persons	Jan.	4.04	4.28	8.16	6.05	9.73
	Feb.	5.67	5.40	10.60	7.81	10.58
	Mar.	18.44	12.32	13.86	9.86	13.38
	Apr.	23.76	18.68	19.32	12.48	13.89
	May	37.00	28.76	25.20	13.38	15.35
	June	50.20	41.18	28.56	16.17	21.80
	July	40.58	31.46	23.50	9.91	15.57
	Aug.	17.96	13.94	15.44	6.20	10.50
	Sept.	33.04	20.44	18.56	11.73	16.04
	Oct.	65.92	41.76	36.96	29.02	34.23
	Nov.	49.33	36.40	32.32	25.54	26.27
	Dec.	30.66	26.32	20.64	18.28	20.27
Totals						
Head	1940	162.85	174.06	182.40	106.05	131.26
Family members	1940	213.75	106.88	70.72	60.38	76.35
All persons	1940	376.60	280.94	253.12	166.43	207.62

as many man-days as in January. (Table 2.) Only renters or croppers averaged more than 20 days in even the rush months, and wage labor class averages ranged from 15 to 19 days. For the year as a whole, family heads had from 106 to 182 days of work. This shows that they, the bread-winners and steadiest workers, were idle from two-fifths to two-thirds of the time.

Employment on cotton farms in southeastern Missouri is irregular during the year. In winter it is low. It is larger in March when spring preparation of land begins. Cotton chopping in May and June brings a rush of work exceeded only by picking in September and October. Family heads do half of their year's work in 5 months, and some do two-thirds of it in 6 months. In peak months only those of regular laborer families worked less than 12 percent of their annual total of man-days. Members of the family other than the head, as a whole, put in at least one-fifth of their year's work in October. Families as a whole got in at least one-seventh of their working time then.

The family heads do the larger part of the work by their families, but work of other members is important. In the wage laborers' families those members did one-fourth to one-third of it. In sharecropper and renter families, averaging successively larger in numbers and presumably workers, the proportions of working time put in by members was increased, to nearly two-fifths and three-fifths, respectively. The earnings of wage laborers ^{3/} on cotton farms in Missouri follow trends somewhat similar to those of employment. They are low in winter, and proportionately higher in summer. Their annual total for no group included averaged over \$330 per family, or \$95 per member. (Table 3.) In cotton picking time, particularly October, earnings are somewhat high in proportion to time worked. This is because piece-work rates make it possible for adults to average earnings distinctly higher than the day-wage rates prevailing during the rest of the year on farms and in many other labor jobs.

Whatever the nature of their work, these people made extremely low annual incomes. Regular laborer families reported average earnings of \$326.98 in 1940; cotton chopper families, \$207.05; and cotton picker families, \$254.06. Per member, the respective averages were \$88.37, \$62.74, and \$94.10. In other words, no person in these families had as much as \$100 per year for his maintenance, and many had not two-thirds of that amount.

^{3/} Share cropper and share renter earnings are not considered here because crop proceeds form a large part of their incomes and data concerning these are not yet available from this study. The fact that the families supplemented their crop incomes with as high wage earnings as they did is significant of their need.

Man-days: Percentages of 1940 total worked in each month by specified classes of families on farms in New Madrid County, Missouri

(Preliminary data from survey by Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Farm Security Administration, and Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, cooperating.)

		Persons interviewed as--				
Class	Month:	Share	Share	Regular	Casual cot-	Casual cotton
of	or	tenants	croppers	laborers	ton choppers:	pickers
Worker	year	(24 reports)	(25 reports)	(25 reports)	(21 reports)	(26 reports)
		(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Head of family	Jan.	1.92	2.09	4.43	3.64	5.74
	Feb.	2.64	2.64	5.48	4.22	6.48
	Mar.	7.82	6.37	6.92	7.77	8.38
	Apr.	9.88	10.02	9.34	10.24	9.00
	May	11.51	11.42	10.09	8.62	8.97
	June	12.51	12.49	10.37	10.80	10.58
	July	10.62	11.50	10.03	6.42	7.53
	Aug.	6.55	7.11	7.37	3.87	5.33
	Sept.	7.49	7.21	7.70	6.44	7.79
	Oct.	10.77	10.75	10.50	13.90	13.33
	Nov.	10.08	10.07	9.96	13.04	9.49
	Dec.	8.21	8.23	7.81	11.04	7.38
Family members other than head	Jan.	.43	.60	.11	3.63	2.87
	Feb.	.65	.75	.85	5.52	2.72
	Mar.	2.67	1.16	1.75	2.63	3.12
	Apr.	3.59	1.16	3.22	2.63	2.72
	May	8.54	8.31	9.62	7.02	4.69
	June	13.96	18.19	13.63	7.82	10.37
	July	10.89	10.70	7.35	5.13	7.45
	Aug.	3.41	1.46	2.83	3.48	4.58
	Sept.	9.74	7.22	6.39	8.12	7.61
	Oct.	22.63	21.56	25.18	23.65	21.92
	Nov.	15.40	17.66	20.02	19.39	18.10
	Dec.	8.09	11.23	9.05	10.68	13.85
All persons	Jan.	1.07	1.52	3.22	3.64	4.69
	Feb.	1.51	1.92	4.19	4.69	5.10
	Mar.	4.90	4.39	5.48	5.92	6.44
	Apr.	6.31	6.64	7.63	7.50	6.69
	May	9.82	10.24	9.96	8.04	7.39
	June	13.33	14.66	11.28	9.72	10.50
	July	10.78	11.20	9.28	5.95	7.50
	Aug.	4.77	4.96	6.10	3.72	5.06
	Sept.	8.77	7.28	7.33	7.05	7.73
	Oct.	17.50	14.86	14.61	17.44	16.49
	Nov.	13.10	12.96	12.77	15.35	12.65
	Dec.	8.14	9.37	8.15	10.98	9.76
Totals						
Head	1940	43.24	61.96	72.06	63.72	63.23
Family members	1940	56.76	38.04	27.94	36.28	36.77
All persons	1940	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

(Table 2.)

Money earnings: Average amounts earned by specified classes of families on farms in New Madrid County, Missouri, by months, 1940.

(Preliminary data from survey by Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Farm Security Administration, and Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, cooperating)

Class of worker	Month or year	Persons interviewed as				
		Share tenants	Share croppers	Regular laborers	Casual cotton choppers	Casual cotton pickers
		(24 reports)	(25 reports)	(25 reports)	(21 reports)	(26 reports)
		(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)
Head of family	Jan.	0.96	4.00	10.71	7.14	12.01
	Feb.	.96	4.06	12.02	8.73	13.26
	Mar.	.92	7.45	14.41	8.54	14.25
	Apr.	.46	9.07	19.48	6.53	14.62
	May	.75	8.71	20.75	7.48	15.87
	June	.87	8.18	21.41	10.29	16.47
	July	.79	8.44	22.03	5.72	12.10
	Aug.	3.92	9.14	16.96	6.32	10.24
	Sept.	4.88	11.23	18.77	11.40	17.38
	Oct.	6.24	16.00	27.76	22.39	25.94
	Nov.	6.40	14.17	25.60	19.08	18.39
	Dec.	5.06	12.26	20.66	14.38	13.20
Family members other than head	Jan.	0	0	.04	1.05	2.68
	Feb.	0	0	.60	1.71	2.46
	Mar.	0	0	1.24	1.14	2.96
	Apr.	0	.26	2.16	1.14	2.65
	May	0	.70	6.95	3.05	4.15
	June	1.63	2.66	9.14	3.29	5.19
	July	1.69	2.80	5.25	2.14	3.40
	Aug.	.71	.80	2.60	1.62	2.22
	Sept.	1.84	2.46	6.50	6.31	4.33
	Oct.	8.16	7.78	29.93	26.18	18.29
	Nov.	7.14	5.14	22.45	20.95	14.64
	Dec.	1.56	2.83	9.56	10.47	7.36
All persons	Jan.	.96	4.00	10.75	8.19	14.69
	Feb.	.96	4.06	12.62	10.44	15.72
	Mar.	.92	7.45	15.65	9.68	17.21
	Apr.	.46	9.33	21.64	7.67	17.27
	May	.75	9.41	27.70	10.53	20.02
	June	2.50	10.84	30.55	13.58	21.66
	July	2.48	11.24	27.28	7.86	15.50
	Aug.	4.63	9.94	19.56	7.94	12.46
	Sept.	6.72	13.69	25.27	17.71	21.71
	Oct.	14.40	23.78	57.69	48.57	44.23
	Nov.	13.54	19.31	48.05	40.03	33.03
	Dec.	6.62	15.09	30.22	24.85	20.56
Totals						
Head	1940	32.21	112.71	230.56	128.00	183.73
Family members	1940	22.73	25.43	96.42	79.05	70.33
All persons	1940	54.94	138.14	326.98	207.05	254.06

(Table 3.)

The heads of the regular laborers families themselves earned \$230.56 in 1940; of picker families, \$183.73; of chopper families, only \$128. These earnings, small for the support of one person, show the urgent necessity that puts all members of the families to work whenever possible, to add to family incomes. Accordingly, members of regular laborer families other than the head added \$96.42 to the family wage incomes; of chopper families, \$79.05; and of picker families, \$70.33. These amounts were relatively large as shown by the fact that the addition to regular laborer family income was 29.49% of the total; to chopper family income, 38.18 percent; and in the case of picker families, 27.68 percent. (Table 4.)

These few facts stamp the cotton-producing area of southeastern Missouri as one that has surplus labor most of the year. At cotton-picking time migratory workers are considered necessary to help local workers pick the crop. It is also an area of extremely low wage rates and low earnings among laborers. The effect of underemployment and low incomes on these families has not yet been measured by tabulation and evaluation of additional data obtained during this survey. Suffice it to say that their earnings were far too low to provide for even the minimum subsistence levels of living recommended for American families. They cannot properly provide food, fuel, clothing, medical care, housing, education, and recreation for their families, nor contribute to the social and religious organizations of their localities, nor support their local governments as tax payers. No mention is made here of their drains on relief funds.

The effect of underemployment, low incomes, and poor living conditions is to make most of these workers wish for other work at better wages, in efforts to improve their circumstances. Yet because of their limitations they cannot soon offer much beyond unskilled, common labor. No supporting data have yet been compiled from those obtained in this survey, but it may be stated that few of the workers interviewed had been to high school, and many had not had more than 5 grades of elementary schooling. Seldom had they had any other training, although they have average capacities for it. This situation makes nearly all of them helpless victims of conditions beyond their control, compelling them to remain poorly paid, underemployed, unskilled common laborers in nearly all occupations, including agriculture.

As defense measures attract skilled workers from their ordinary skilled occupations, those next below will step up into their jobs. The movement will, in general, reach down through the masses of employees and open opportunities for the less skilled to take vacated jobs at wage rates higher than they have been getting. The drafting of men into the armed forces will force additional withdrawals from agricultural and non-agricultural production and give additional chances for even the remaining unskilled. The surplus of laborers in Southeastern Missouri should furnish some of the workers needed elsewhere.

Money earnings: Percentage of 1940 total earned in each month by specified classes of families on farms in New Madrid County, Missouri.

(Preliminary data from survey by Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Farm Security Administration, and Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, cooperating.)

		Persons interviewed as--				
Class	Month	Share	Share	Regular	Casual cot-	Casual cotton
of	or	tenants	croppers	laborers	ton choppers	pickers
Worker	Year	(24 reports)	(25 reports)	(25 reports)	(21 reports)	(26 reports)
		(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
Head of family	Jan.	2.98	3.55	4.65	5.58	6.54
	Feb.	2.98	3.60	5.21	6.82	7.22
	Mar.	2.86	6.61	6.25	6.67	7.75
	Apr.	1.43	8.05	8.45	5.10	7.96
	May	2.33	7.73	9.00	5.84	8.64
	June	2.70	7.26	9.29	8.04	8.96
	July	2.45	7.49	9.55	4.47	6.59
	Aug.	12.17	8.11	7.36	4.94	5.57
	Sept.	15.15	9.96	8.14	8.91	9.46
	Oct.	19.37	14.20	12.04	17.49	14.12
	Nov.	19.87	12.56	11.10	14.91	10.01
	Dec.	15.71	10.88	8.96	11.23	7.18
Family members other than head	Jan.	0	0	.04	1.33	3.81
	Feb.	0	0	.62	2.16	3.50
	Mar.	0	0	1.29	1.44	4.21
	Apr.	0	1.02	2.24	1.44	3.77
	May	0	2.75	7.21	3.86	5.90
	June	7.17	10.46	9.48	4.16	7.38
	July	7.44	11.01	5.44	2.71	4.83
	Aug.	3.12	3.15	2.70	2.05	3.14
	Sept.	8.09	9.67	6.74	7.93	6.16
	Oct.	35.86	30.60	31.05	33.12	26.02
	Nov.	31.46	20.21	23.28	26.51	20.82
	Dec.	6.86	11.13	9.91	13.24	10.46
All persons	Jan.	1.75	2.90	3.29	3.95	5.73
	Feb.	1.75	2.94	3.86	5.04	6.19
	Mar.	1.67	5.39	4.79	4.68	6.77
	Apr.	.84	6.75	6.62	3.70	6.80
	May	1.37	6.81	8.47	5.09	7.88
	June	4.55	7.85	9.34	6.56	8.53
	July	4.51	8.14	8.34	3.80	6.10
	Aug.	8.43	7.20	5.98	3.83	4.90
	Sept.	12.23	9.91	7.73	8.56	8.58
	Oct.	26.21	17.21	17.64	23.46	17.41
	Nov.	24.64	13.98	14.70	19.33	13.00
	Dec.	12.05	10.92	9.24	12.00	8.09
Totals						
Head	1940	58.63	81.59	70.51	61.82	72.32
Family members	1940	41.37	18.41	29.49	38.18	27.68
All Persons	1940	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

(Table 4.)

Changes in Economic Status of
Sharecroppers and Share Tenants

Earlier in this report, effort was made to show changes in the total numbers of persons employed, and to point out changes that have occurred between types of labor groups. Later, changes between the types of laborers will be shown as tabulated from their tenure histories. In addition to these items, it is possible to indicate the economic status of workers from the amounts of their cash settlements, their credit advances, and their debts.

Cash settlements are the payments made to sharecroppers and other sub-tenants at the end of a crop year, and represent the value of their share of crops produced by them, minus credit advances extended for living and crop production expense and interest on those advances. The debts here referred to are those owed to the operator and others incurred immediately before settlement. Sometimes the debts exceed the value of the sub-tenants' share of the crop, and the net obligation is carried over for payment in succeeding years. In such cases the amount is treated here as a negative cash settlement.

Since 1936 cash settlements of sharecroppers and share tenants declined to a low in 1937, increased during the two succeeding years to a level comparable with 1936, and declined again in 1940. The 1940 cash settlements were 84.3 percent and 81.6 percent of the 1936 figures for share croppers and share tenants, respectively (table).

Credit advances to sharecroppers followed a pattern similar to that described for cash settlements, except that the upward tendency continued from 1937 through 1940. In the case of share tenants, however, credit advances rose continuously from 1936 to 1940. The 1940 amount was 249.1 percent of the 1936 figure.

Debts of sharecroppers were nominal but varied. Debts of share tenants declined between 1936 and 1939. In 1940, tenants' debts were almost as large as in 1936.

The economic status of sharecroppers appears to have changed only slightly over the 5-year period, as indicated by these measures. A low point was reached in 1937, but in 1939 and 1940 credit advances plus the cash settlements practically equaled those of 1936.

A low point in the economic status of share tenants was reached in 1937 but during succeeding years their position improved considerably above the 1936 level.

In tables 6, 7, and 8, it is possible to study in detail the group progress of sub-tenants. In these tables frequency distributions are shown for cash settlements, credit advances, and debts. For cash settlements the mode ranged from zero to between \$100 and \$200 cash over the series of years for both croppers and tenants. The median ranged between \$55 and \$135, the peak being reached in 1939 and the low point in 1938. The number of cases included in the sample of share tenants is small, but approximately the same conclusions can be drawn for them as for sharecroppers. It is of interest that a high proportion of the croppers and tenants came out even, as regards cash settlements.

Slightly less than half of the croppers received no credit advances during each of the years shown. Among those receiving advances few borrowed as much as \$200 during the year. Excluding those borrowing no money, the median during each of the years was close to \$100 per family. Including all croppers, however, the median approached \$50 each year.

Among share tenants, nearly half of those included in the sample received no credit in 1936 and 1937, but the number diminished during succeeding years. The median was nearly \$50 in 1936, \$75 in 1937, \$150 in 1938, and 1939, and slightly more than \$170 in 1940.

Comparatively few of the sub-tenants owed money at settlement time. This undoubtedly is due to the large amount of wage work which they do for the operator. In turn, many of the sub-tenants receive no advances. For those who do, there appear to be opportunities to "work-out" the debt at various tasks, principally at cotton hoeing, chopping, and picking. Debts owed by borrowers ranged considerably. The scatter of debtor cases is so great and the cases are so few that no conclusions are offered here.

Credit advances to share tenants for 1940 were not issued at regular intervals in most cases. Five tenants reported that they received regular advances. Two of these borrowed more than \$20 per month, while three borrowed the money at weekly intervals in amounts ranging between \$5 and \$20. Among sharecroppers, on the other hand, 47 of the 116 families reported that regular sums were advanced to them. Nineteen received their advances by months, 17 every two weeks, and 11 each week. The amounts borrowed varied widely, but in general the amounts received per month were about the same.

Most of the credit advances to sharecroppers and share tenants were cash advances, although almost every conceivable method was reported. Sixty of the 82 croppers and 12 of the 21 share tenants receiving advances got cash. Store credit was granted to 13 croppers and 5 tenants. A combination of cash and store credit was reported by 3 croppers and 3 tenants. Two croppers obtained their credit through the operator's commissary. Other methods, such as coupon books, cash and commissary, commissary and store credit, were reported in single instances by sharecroppers.

Table 6. Estimated Amount of Cash Settlements ^{1/} Received by Sharecroppers and Share Tenants, by Frequency Classes, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936-1940 (Preliminary)

Frequency Classes :	Sharecroppers					Share Tenants				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
	Number of Cases					Number of Cases				
\$ - 100.0 and less	0	2	2	1	1	1	4	0	1	1
- 0.1 to - 99.9	1	6	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
\$0.00	12	22	21	9	17	8	10	10	5	7
0.1 to 49.9	12	20	14	7	18	0	1	1	0	0
50.0 to 99.9	17	16	23	19	25	2	0	1	5	0
100.0 to 199.9	20	20	21	31	32	8	7	3	6	7
200.0 to 399.9	16	14	12	20	18	4	5	5	7	6
400.0 to 599.9	4	2	5	3	4	3	0	3	4	0
600.0 and over	3	0	0	5	0	3	1	2	2	1
Total Number	85	102	101	98	116	30	29	25	30	22
	Dollars					Dollars				
Average (all cases)	140	79	95	153	118	201	82	173	190	164
For cases receiving cash settlmt.	166	121	133	179	140	314	236	288	246	270
For cases receiving negative settlement	-40	-72	-69	-47	-62	-130	-182	0	200	158

^{1/} Negative cash settlement, those receiving credit advances amounting to more than their share of crops produced, are shown in "minus" frequency classes. Those receiving \$0.00 cash settlement came out even.

Table VII. Estimated Amount of Credit Advances Received by Sharecroppers and Share Tenants by Frequency Classes, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936-1940

(Preliminary)

Frequency Classes	Sharecroppers					Share Tenants				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
	Number					Number				
No Credit Advances	33	46	42	40	39	13	12	6	8	3
\$ 0.1 to \$ 49.9	7	7	7	8	14	2	1	1	2	2
50.0 to 99.9	18	19	23	19	28	1	2	2	2	1
100.0 to 199.9	20	22	21	23	22	6	6	5	7	7
200.0 to 399.9	6	7	8	8	11	7	5	9	5	3
400.0 to 599.9	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	2
600.0 and over	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	4	4
Total Number	85	102	101	98	116	30	29	25	30	22
	Dollars					Dollars				
Average (all cases)	70	60	64	67	87	110	163	197	223	274
For those receiving:	114	110	110	112	131	194	278	259	305	318

Table 8.- Estimated amount of debts at settlement time for
sharecroppers and sharetenants, by frequency classes,
New Madrid County, Missouri, 1936-40 - (Preliminary)

Frequency Class	Share Croppers					Share Tenants				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
	(No. of cases)					(No. of cases)				
No debts	73	93	89	78	89	25	20	20	24	14
0.1 - 49.9	4	7	5	9	11	0	0	1	1	1
50.0 - 99.9	4	5	4	4	9	1	4	0	0	1
100.0 - 199.9	3	7	3	5	7	0	2	1	4	3
200.0 - 399.9	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1
400.0 - 599.9	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	1
600.0 and over	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Total	85	102	101	98	116	30	29	25	30	22
	(Dollars)					(Dollars)				
Average (all cases)	11	16	8	15	16	102	69	54	49	99
For those having debts	81	83	66	71	70	611	221	269	247	272

Interest charges on credit advances ranged between 0.0 percent and 14.0 percent. One out of 18 share tenants reported no interest, while nearly one-third of the croppers paid no interest. Five of the share tenants paid interest without respect to the time they had had the money at rates ranging between 7 percent and 14 percent, while 12 paid between 5 percent and 9 percent per annum. Thirty-eight sharecroppers paid between 1.0 percent and 14 percent interest without respect to the time they had had the money, while 18 others paid similar interest rates on a per annum basis.

Tenure History of Sharecroppers, Share Tenants, and
Wage Laborers, 1931-40

Very few of the sub-tenants and wage laborers interviewed in the course of this study had been higher on the "agricultural ladder" than these levels during the past 10 years. Three had been cash renters, 3 had been owners, and as many as 18 had held other positions, in agriculture or in other industries.

Over the period of 10 years, the number who had been sharecroppers increased from 61 to 99, and the increases were continuous. Share renters remained almost the same throughout the period. Wage laborers almost doubled their numbers, continuously increasing year by year, with only two minor exceptions.

The increases came partly from farm and nonfarm people who had "slipped back on the ladder" to lower status, but more came from younger groups. Forty-six, or 23.4 percent, were young men, who during the 40 years had left their home farms and began working for themselves.

As all of the records obtained from sub-tenants and wage laborers were obtained from workers employed on farms included in the sample of operators, it is possible to visualize one of the serious imperfections in the movement on the agricultural ladder. On farms included in the study there were 522 sub-tenants and wage families. Of this number, 197 worker families were interviewed. This latter sample shows that, during the past 10 years, 23.4 percent of the workers were younger persons getting their first employment away from their parents' home. In addition, 12.1 percent of the 1940 number of sub-tenants and wage laborers came into these classes from other tenure or employment levels. Yet only 17 moves occurred among farm operators (Part III, table 24). Moreover, the opportunities of the increasing numbers of workers to become operators are declining because the size of the operating units is becoming larger. (Part III, tables 2 and 3)

Table 9

Tenure History of Sharecroppers, Share Tenants and Wage Laborers,
1931-40, New Madrid County, Missouri (Preliminary)

[illegible][illegible]

Security of Sub-tenants and Wage Laborers

In agriculture the number of years that a worker is able to stay in one place is used as an index of his security, because in agriculture a "job" also is likely to mean a place to live. The period during which a man stays on one farm usually measures also the period during which his family has been spared the cost and inconvenience of moving. Of course, it is an imperfect measure. A tenant farmer may be insecure because his income is low and uncertain, even though he has remained for many years on the same farm. Moreover, regardless of income, a worker may be fearful of losing his job from one year to another, or he may contemplate moving of his own accord year after year. Since these factors cannot be converted into statistical measures so far as security is concerned, length of stay has been used uniformly as an index of security, as well as a measure of stability.

In Southeastern Missouri, share renters, (see table 10) judged by the length of time they had spent on the land they worked in 1940, were by far the most secure of all the sub-tenure groups. Only one-eighth (12.5 percent) of the share renters 1/ had been on their farms less than 2 years; more than one-third had been on their present farms 5 years or more and one-eighth had had a continuous stay of 10 years or more on the present farm.

By contrast, one-third of the sharecroppers and almost one-half the regular wage laborers had been on their present farms less than 2 years. Fewer than 1 out of 10 sharecroppers and fewer than 1 out of 20 regular wage laborers had been on their present farms for 10 years or more.

1/ Those receiving more than one-half of the cotton and more than one-third of the corn and supplying seed, feed, workstock or tractor power in addition to labor.

Table 10 Number of years regular workers spent on present farm, by tenure, New Madrid County, Missouri 1940 (Preliminary)

Period (in years)	Tenure							
	Share		Share		Wage		All tenures	
	renters		croppers		laborers			
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
1 - 1.9	3	12.5	33	33.3	36	48.6	72	36.5
2 - 2.9	6	25.0	18	18.2	13	17.6	37	18.8
3 - 3.9	4	16.7	11	11.1	13	17.6	28	14.2
4 - 4.9	2	8.3	10	10.1	3	4.1	15	7.6
5 - 5.9	1	4.2	9	9.1	1	1.3	11	5.6
6 - 9.9	5	20.8	10	10.1	5	6.8	20	10.2
10 and over	3	12.5	8	8.1	3	4.0	14	7.1
Total	24	100.0	99	100.0	74	100.0	197	100.0

It is not unusual for cotton workers to move from one farm to another with a particular operator rather than to stay on a farm that has changed hands, because adjustments between individuals are sometimes more difficult than are adjustments to another farm. Workers were, therefore, asked how many years they had worked for the operator of the farm on which they were employed in 1940, as well as how long they had been on that farm (see table 11). Most often, the worker had been with the operator the same number of years he had been on the farm, but there are some indications that workers felt that they could do best by moving when their employer moved. While 12.5 percent of the share renters had been on the same farm 10 years or more, 16.7 percent of them had been with the same operator 10 years or more. The respective figures for share croppers were 8.1 percent and 11.1 percent; for wage laborers, 4.0 percent and 5.4 percent. Similarly, 48.6 percent of the wage laborers had been at the present jobs less than 2 years, while only 43.2 percent had been with the present operator less than 2 years. And so with share croppers: 33.3 percent had been on their present farms less than 2 years; only 25.3 percent had been with present operator less than 2 years.

Table 11 Number of years regular workers spent with present operator, by tenure, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1940 (Preliminary)

Period (in years)	Tenure								All tenures
	Share		Share		Wage				
	renters		croppers		laborers				
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	
1 - 1.9	3	12.5	25	25.3	32	43.2	60	30.5	
2 - 2.9	5	20.9	16	16.2	12	16.2	33	16.8	
3 - 3.9	5	20.8	11	11.1	13	17.6	29	14.7	
4 - 4.9	2	8.3	14	14.1	3	4.1	19	9.6	
5 - 5.9	-	—	9	9.1	1	1.3	10	5.1	
6 - 9.9	5	20.8	13	13.1	9	12.2	27	13.7	
10 and over	4	16.7	11	11.1	4	5.4	19	9.6	
Total	24	100.0	99	100.0	74	100.0	197	100.0	

Similar, but not identical, questions were asked of seasonal workers, hired to aid with the abnormally large volume of work on cotton farms at chopping and picking times. Unlike the workers previously discussed, seasonal workers do not live year round on the farms on which they were interviewed (cotton choppers, in June; cotton pickers in September 1941). Many of them do not live on the farms even during the brief periods for which they are employed. Tables 12 and 13 accordingly, show not the total number of years the seasonal workers had stayed on their present farms or worked with the present operators (as did Tables 1 and 2), but the years during which they had done any work at all on the farms or for the operators. These data, therefore, are a much less satisfactory measure of security. These extra seasonal workers, of course, are notoriously insecure, and more particularly is this true for the migrants.

The information presented here was obtained merely to find out whether seasonal workers, especially migrants, in Southeastern Missouri could rely on finding work on the same farms or with the same operators year after year. Apparently few of them could. Approximately 70 percent of the seasonal workers engaged in cotton chopping and cotton picking had found work on the present farm for the first time in 1941. Fewer than 1 out of 20 had been coming back to the same farm for 5 or more years and none had found work at the farm on which they were interviewed 10 years or more. For the cotton choppers, there was apparently a better chance of finding work on the same farm than with the same operator; only 28.7 percent of the choppers had worked for the present operator more than one season, while 31.0 percent had worked on the present farm more than one season. For pickers, the proportion working on the present farm one season was exactly the same as the proportion working for the present operator only one season (70.1) percent. Only three choppers out of 87 and only three pickers out of 96 reporting had worked for the same operator five seasons or more.

Among seasonal laborers, then, it appears that personal adjustments are of secondary importance, while the farm's location was more important, but even its location must have been less important than other considerations.

Table 12.- Number of years during which seasonal workers engaged in cotton chopping, June 1941, and cotton picking, September 1941, worked on present farms, New Madrid County, Missouri (Preliminary)

Years	Workers			
	Cotton Choppers		Cotton Pickers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	60	69.0	75	70.1
2	15	17.3	13	12.1
3	8	9.2	3	2.8
4	1	1.1	2	1.9
5	2	2.3	2	1.9
6 - 9	1	1.1	1	0.9
10 and over	0	0.0	0	--
Not reporting	0	0.0	11	10.3
Total	87	100.0	107	100.0

Table 13 Number of years during which seasonal workers engaged in cotton chopping, June 1941, and cotton picking, September 1941, worked for operator of present farm, New Madrid County, Missouri (Preliminary)

Year	Workers					
	Cotton choppers			Cotton pickers		
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	
1	62	71.3		75	70.1	
2	14	16.1		13	12.2	
3	7	8.1		4	3.7	
4	1	1.1		1	0.9	
5	2	2.3		2	1.9	
6 - 9	1	1.1		1	0.9	
10 and over	0	0.0		0	---	
Not reporting	0	0.0		11	10.3	
Total	87	100.0		107	100.0	

Expected Future Mobility of Regular
and Seasonal Workers

Another attempt was made to delve into the security of farm tenants and laborers in this area (see table 14) by asking them whether they expected to look for work elsewhere during the next 3 months. Regular workers, that is, share renters, sharecroppers, and year-round, resident wage hands, were interviewed in February and March. They could still have changed farms in time to make a crop on a new farm in 1941. The seasonal workers engaged in chopping and picking cotton were interviewed respectively in June and September 1941, but of course, they were only extra hands and would have been expected to move soon at any time in the year. Those who said they did not expect to move meant that they did not expect to leave the local area.

Judged by the answers to this question, tenure has extremely important effects on the security of the agricultural worker. More than 90 percent of the share renters, those having the largest bundle of rights in the land, said that they did not expect to move; a larger proportion of the sharecroppers expected to move, but even so, almost 85 percent of this group expected to stay where they were for at least another year. Among the regular wage laborers, on the other hand, the picture was not so good. More than 25 percent of the regular wage laborers expected to move within 3 months of the time they were interviewed. Approximately one-fourth of the seasonal workers engaged in cotton chopping and more than half the seasonal workers engaged in picking cotton said that they expected to hunt for work elsewhere within 3 months.

Among the regular workers, one sharecropper and two wage hands said they expected to get homes in one of the Farm Security Administration's Labor Home Communities in nearby counties. Only three expected to go outside the area, one temporarily for seasonal agricultural work. The other two (wage laborers) hoped to find industrial work in St. Louis.

Of the seasonal wage laborers, who were going to search elsewhere for work, 12 had not decided where they would go, when they were interviewed. Several said they would go anywhere that seemed to offer a reasonable chance of work. Four wanted to stay in the neighborhood. Again, only two indicated that they might go to industrial centers. Three thought that work in agriculture offered them very little chance of a satisfactory living, but they had not made plans to seek work in industry.

Apparently, then, in 1940 and even in 1941, agricultural workers in this area had not been greatly attracted by defense work, and industrial activity and prosperity had not threatened the labor supply on Missouri cotton farms. These data lend support to the thesis that agricultural workers move, not directly to urban industrial areas, but indirectly from farms to villages and towns, taking the place of non-agricultural workers in rural areas who have gone to the cities, then later perhaps move on to the cities to find jobs in factories.

The reason is partly found in the serious lack of vocational training among farm people, especially in the laborer and tenant groups. Other evidence obtained in this study indicates clearly, that few of the farm people

in Southeastern Missouri had any training or experience in handling industrial materials, or tools. The need for additional vocational guidance and training has, of course, long been recognized as a primary need of rural people.

One further point, already touched upon may be reasserted here. It is not only the insecurity and instability resulting from frequent moving that is a problem to tenants and agricultural laborers, both regular and seasonal. It is also the fear that they may find it necessary to move, that they may find it intolerable to stay where they are, or that they may be displaced and forced to move. Doubtless some of those who indicated that they expected to look for work elsewhere would not actually move, some who had feared displacement would be allowed to stay, others who wanted to move would not find other opportunities. The important point is that from year to year uncertainty is the constant outlook of so many of these farm people.

Table 14.- Persons, by tenure, working on farms who expected to seek work elsewhere during the next three months, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1941* (Preliminary)

Response	Regular Workers				Seasonal Workers			
	Share renters	Sharecroppers	Laborers	Total	Cotton Choppers	Cotton Pickers		
	Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number:Percent		
Yes	2 : 8.3	14 : 14.1	19 : 25.7	35 : 17.8	20 : 23.0	58 : 54.2		
No	22 : 91.7	84 : 84.9	54 : 73.0	160 : 81.2	66 : 75.9	44 : 41.1		
Not Reporting	- : -	1 : 1.0	1 : 1.3	2 : 1.0	1 : 1.1	5 : 4.7		
Total	24 : 100.0	99 : 100.0	74 : 100.0	197 : 100.0	87 : 100.0	107 : 100.0		

*Regular workers during March, April, or May 1941; Cotton choppers during July, August, or September, 1941; Cotton pickers during October, November, or December 1941.

Birthplaces of Regular and Seasonal Workers Employed
on New Madrid County Farms

Southeastern Missouri has been called a melting pot and a last frontier. Certainly it is an area of rapid and drastic change. One phase of this state of flux is the migration of people into and out of, but mostly into the area. This Missouri "Bootheel" is among the two or three centers of fastest growing population in the country. The number of people in the seven southeastern counties increased almost one-third in the last decade, and most of these people have come from other States.

Of almost 400 heads of laborer and tenant families interviewed in New Madrid County, only 77 had been born in one of the seven Bootheel counties; that is to say, fewer than one out of five was native born. (See table 15). As might be expected, seasonal workers engaged in cotton picking showed the smallest proportion of persons born in the local area. The seasonal workers engaged in cotton chopping, however, showed a larger proportion (27.6 percent) of natives than did the supposedly more secure and more stable sharecroppers (15.2 percent).

Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee contributed most of the "outsiders". These three States were the points of origin of one-third of the share renters, more than half the sharecroppers, almost two-thirds of the regular wage laborers, and more than half of the seasonal workers engaged in chopping or picking cotton. Those parts of Missouri outside of the Bootheel were much less important sources of population and of labor than the neighboring cotton States.

The fact that share renters showed the largest proportion of family heads born in the area adds further support to the importance given stable tenure as an index of welfare. The people who had been born in the area and stayed there all their lives apparently had a much better chance of becoming share renters and thus obtaining a higher income than did people coming from other States to make a new start in Southeastern Missouri.

Another interesting point is the great difference between the proportion of cotton choppers and the proportion of cotton pickers coming from outside the area. Less work is available at chopping time than at picking time, especially in a year like 1941 when the crop matures quickly and local labor is less able to harvest it rapidly. Perhaps this means that the migrants find it less worth while to come to the area for cotton chopping. Also, the chopping work is less certain than the picking. In 1940, the dry weather meant very few weeds and consequently very little chopping, yet 2 or 3 days of hard rain might have suddenly created a tremendous volume of work and a serious labor shortage. The migrants who, from many seasons of wandering from area to area and from crop to crop, know in general how the risks and opportunities vary in different areas at different times, doubtless take into account the fickleness of weather and the uncertainty of cotton chopping when deciding whether to make the trip to Southeastern Missouri in June or July.

Table 15 - Birthplace of family heads of regular workers' families by tenure, 1940,
and of heads of seasonal workers' families engaged in cotton chopping,
June 1941, and cotton picking, September 1941, New Madrid
County, Missouri (Preliminary)

Birthplace	Regular workers						Seasonal workers					
	Share renters			Sharecroppers			Laborers			Total		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Southeastern Missouri*	9	37.5	15	15.2	17	23.0	41	20.8	24	27.6	12	11.2
Elsewhere in Missouri	3	12.5	7	7.1	3	4.0	13	6.6	4	4.6	6	5.6
Arkansas	2	8.3	25	25.2	25	33.8	52	26.4	17	19.5	33	30.8
Kentucky	1	4.2	7	7.1	3	4.0	11	5.6	-	-	5	4.7
Mississippi	2	8.3	15	15.1	13	17.6	30	15.2	16	18.4	12	11.2
Tennessee	4	16.7	14	14.1	8	10.8	26	13.2	15	17.2	16	15.0
Other Cotton States:	-	-	8	8.1	4	5.4	12	6.1	7	8.0	13	12.1
Elsewhere in United States	2	8.3	8	8.1	1	1.4	11	5.6	3	3.5	6	5.6
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1.9
Not reporting	1	4.2	-	-	-	-	1	0.5	1	1.2	2	1.9
Total	24	100.0	99	100.0	74	100.0	197	100.0	87	100.0	107	100.0

*Mississippi, Scott, Stoddard, New Madrid, Butler, Dunklin, and Pemiscot Counties.

Housing Conditions of Subtenants and Wage Laborers

When large population movements have made the problem critical, during recent years, and especially during the last year or two, the question of housing has been definitely before the American people. Through its various housing programs the Government has improved housing and alleviated housing shortages, but much inadequate housing remains, especially in rural areas.

The report made here (see Table 16) is based largely upon the judgments of local people. They were asked to report the condition of their own houses and those of their neighbors. The enumerators took pictures of many houses in New Madrid County and asked local farm people to characterize them as "good," "fair," "poor," or "dilapidated." The standard of judgment is therefore purely a local one, and it should be remembered that houses called "good" in rural-farm sections of Southeastern Missouri might not be regarded as "good" in other parts of the State or in other States and, on the other hand, that some buildings called "dilapidated" there, might not have been so considered elsewhere. The opinions of enumerators, who may have had very different standards from the people who lived in the houses, are not included.

The people of New Madrid County are certainly not satisfied with their housing conditions. Less than 10 percent of the regular workers thought their houses were in good condition. More than 40 percent said their houses were only fair and 33.5 percent said their houses were poor. Significant is the fact that 12.2 percent of the families visited, that is, about 1 out of 8, called their houses "dilapidated." This was carefully explained as meaning actually "falling into decay": badly leaking rooms, boards missing from floors, windows broken or missing, loose and sagging beams and uprights, insecure foundations, etc. The share renters seemed to have fared best with respect to housing, as well as in stability of employment and residence. Almost 60 percent of this group reported either good or fair housing conditions. They were, however, not very far ahead of either sharecroppers or regular wage laborers, who said in more than half the cases that their houses were either fair or good.

Curiously enough, a larger percentage of seasonal workers than of any of the regular workers reported good housing; 23.0 percent of the cotton choppers and 16.8 percent of the cotton pickers reported good housing conditions.

Two things should be kept in mind in interpreting these reports. First, the standard is local and relative; and, second, many of the cotton choppers were local people who lived in towns and villages and did only seasonal work on the farms. Housing in the towns and villages, though it leaves much to be desired in the opinion of local people, is superior to housing on the farms in rural areas. It should be noted also that 21.8 percent of the seasonal workers engaged in cotton chopping, a larger proportion than in any other group, reported their houses as dilapidated.

A further indication of the inadequacy of housing is found in the report of space available to families and to individuals (see Table 17).

Table 16.- Condition of houses occupied by regular workers, 1940; by seasonal workers engaged in cotton chopping, June 1941, and by seasonal workers engaged in cotton picking, September 1941, New Madrid County, Missouri (preliminary)

Condition reported	Regular workers					Seasonal workers*				
	Share renters	Sharecroppers	Laborers	Total	Cotton choppers	Cotton pickers				
	Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Good	3 : 12.5	9 : 9.1	7 : 9.5	19 : 9.6	20 : 23.0	18 : 16.8				
Fair	11 : 45.8	44 : 44.5	31 : 41.9	86 : 43.7	29 : 33.3	40 : 37.4				
Poor	7 : 29.2	34 : 34.3	25 : 33.8	66 : 33.5	18 : 20.7	32 : 29.9				
Delapidated	3 : 12.5	11 : 11.1	10 : 13.5	24 : 12.2	19 : 21.8	6 : 5.6				
Not reported	-- : --	1 : 1.0	1 : 1.3	2 : 1.0	1 : 1.2	11 : 10.3				
Total	24 : 100.0	99 : 100.0	74 : 100.0	197 : 100.0	87 : 100.0	107 : 100.0				

*Several of these workers were living in barns, other outbuildings, one was living in a corn crib.

Table 17 - Number of rooms per person available to families of regular workers in 1940, and to seasonal workers engaged in cotton chopping, June 1941, and cotton picking, September 1941, New Madrid County, Missouri (preliminary)

Average rooms Per person	Regular workers				Seasonal workers			
	Share renters Number:Percent	Sharecroppers Number:Percent	Labors Number:Percent	Total Number:Percent	Cotton choppers Number:Percent	Cotton pickers Number:Percent		
Less than .25	4 : 1.6	8 : 1.6	4 : 1.6	8 : 0.8	21 : 5.5	235 : 30.3		
0.25 - 0.49	46 : 31.5	104 : 20.5	93 : 28.5	243 : 24.8	68 : 17.8	331 : 42.7		
0.50 - 0.74	68 : 46.6	202 : 39.8	100 : 30.7	370 : 37.8	121 : 31.8	130 : 16.8		
0.75 - 0.99	15 : 10.3	82 : 16.2	54 : 16.6	151 : 15.4	77 : 20.2	27 : 3.5		
1.00 - 1.49	11 : 7.5	88 : 17.3	69 : 21.2	168 : 17.2	83 : 21.8	46 : 5.9		
1.50 - 1.99	4 : 2.7	14 : 2.8	2 : 0.6	20 : 2.1	4 : 1.0	4 : 0.5		
2.00 - 2.99	2 : 1.4	7 : 1.4	6 : 1.8	15 : 1.5	10 : 2.6	2 : 0.3		
3.00 and over	- : -	2 : 0.4	2 : 0.6	4 : 0.4	1 : 0.3	- : -		
Total*	146 : 100.0	507 : 100.0	326 : 100.0	979 : 100.0	381 : 100.0	775 : 100.0		
Average number of rooms per person	.64 : -	.73 : -	.71 : -	.71 : -	.74 : -	.39 : -		

*Does not include one sharecropper, one chopper, and one picker who did not report

In general, only about 1 out of 5 persons in the families of regular workers could have had a room to himself. In this respect, both sharecroppers and wage laborers fared a very little better than share-renters. The seasonal workers engaged in chopping, perhaps for the reason already given, had more room space per person than any other group. Cotton pickers were worst off. Almost one-third of the pickers had less than one-fourth of a room each, and almost three-fourths had less than half a room each. Instances of 4, 5, and 6 people in a single room were not uncommon, and one cotton picker reported 36 people living in a 4-room labor cabin.

Additional information on housing conditions was obtained but is not yet available in statistical form. It is known, however, that few of the families had tested water, or sanitary toilets, that many of the houses had no screens, and were insufficiently insulated to protect the people against severe winter weather. The incidence of respiratory diseases is apparently high in the area.

Surprisingly few of these low-income families had received public relief of any kind during 1940. Out of 391 cases in the study, only 35 reported receiving such relief. Several had worked for brief periods on WPA projects; the sons in several of the regular worker's families had spent one enlistment in the local CCC camp, the others received surplus commodities at irregular intervals - no family got as much as \$100 worth during the year. In addition to the indication of unmet need which may be seen in the income figures already presented, it is significant that only 3 of the 19 family heads 65 years of age or over were recipients of old-age pensions. All of these persons were eligible, as near as this could be established by the interviews. Several did not know about the social security program in their locality; several indicated that they would rather be in need than be humiliated as they felt they would be by applying for assistance.

The largest proportion who had received relief was found among the seasonal workers engaged in cotton chopping in June 1941; 16.1 percent of this group had received some sort of relief in 1940. This suggests, first, that relief was easier to obtain in local villages than in rural areas. Most of these people were from local towns and villages so they could more easily qualify for relief than the cotton pickers, more of whom were migrants. Furthermore, it suggests that employment for these people, outside of the seasonal work on cotton farms, was so scarce that more of them were forced to seek relief, for they seemed no less courageous and no less willing to work than those regularly employed on the farms.

It should be noted that the regular wage laborers had depended on relief to a greater extent than either the share-renters or the sharecroppers (Table 18).

The best indication of the level of living which the farm people in Southeastern Missouri had attained is to be had from the record of the amount of money they used for purchases of food and clothing. Of course, some of them did not have to buy all their food. Some had excellent gardens of their own. (But it should be remarked that none realized to the extent seen on the Farm Security Administration Project at La Forge, the full possibilities of a "live-at-home" program). Some had no gardens, and many got very little from the gardens they had.

Table 18. Relief status and number of family heads 65 years of age and over,
among regular workers and seasonal workers engaged in cotton
chopping or cotton picking, New Madrid County, Missouri (Preliminary)

Status and age	Regular workers				Seasonal workers			
	Share renters:		Sharecroppers:		Laborers		Cotton choppers:	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Persons and families receiving relief	-	-	3	3.0	8	10.8	14	16.1
Persons and families receiving old age pensions	-	-	-	-	2	2.7	-	-
Persons and families not receiving relief	24	100.0	96	97.0	66	89.2	73	83.9
Heads of families 65 and over	-	-	5	5.1	3	4.1	8	9.2
Total number persons and families	24	100.0	99	100.0	74	100.0	87	100.0

Still, the importance of home food production should not be slighted. The regular workers or share-renters, sharecroppers, and regular wage laborers spent approximately \$50 per person for "store" food in 1940. The seasonal worker engaged in cotton chopping spent only a few cents more per family member. Cotton pickers, however, spent half again as much, slightly more than \$75 per person. The fact that more of the pickers were migrants (many of them homeless) doubtless had something to do with their spending more. Certainly they could not afford the larger expenditure as well as the members of the regular labor force. They, being transients, had no gardens and no livestock, and, staying only a short time in one place, they did not learn where to buy most economically.

It is interesting also that regular wage laborers spent more, per person, on food than did either share-renters or sharecroppers. Doubtless here, tenure status was an advantage. More of the sharecroppers and share-renters had gardens and livestock of their own, and they were more successful in growing food at home than the laborers.

Single persons, many of them having broken old ties and having so far not established new ones, were in a position not unlike the migrants. They were compelled to spend more for food (and for clothing) than the individuals in families. On the other hand, the fact that they did spend more indicates to some extent unfulfilled needs of family members. This is particularly true of the seasonal laborers.

Expenditures for clothing, (see Tables 19, 20, 21, and 22) perhaps most clearly of all, indicate the distance the farm people in Southeastern Missouri are from a level of living which can be described as even moderately prosperous but entirely appropriate in a country as wealthy as the United States.

The average amount spent by each person in the families of regular laborers on cotton farms in New Madrid County in 1940, only slightly over \$15, indicates at once how little new clothing these people could buy, each year. Here again single individuals, having only themselves to care for, were in a relatively advantageous position. The single wage hands who were regularly employed on New Madrid County farms spent more than twice as much as did any of the individuals in family groups.

Single persons also fared best among the seasonal workers. Among the cotton pickers, single hands spent more than three times as much (\$62.87 as against \$19.29) as did family members. Here again, however, the pickers, both single and family spent more per person than did regular workers of all tenure groups. The greater amount of travelling the non-local workers did (and many of the pickers were non-local people), doubtless made more clothing necessary, especially when it is remembered that farm migrants travel through extremes of climate.

Table 19.-- Amount spent per person for clothing by families of regular workers, by tenure, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1940 (preliminary)

Average amount spent per person	Tenure											
	Share renters				Sharecroppers				Wage laborers			
	Share renters		Sharecroppers		Single		Family		Single		Family	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
\$0 - 4.99	1	4.2	3	3.0	—	—	9	14.3	13	6.6		
\$5 - 9.99	3	12.5	26	26.3	—	—	13	20.6	42	21.3		
\$10 - 14.99	5	20.8	28	28.3	1	9.1	15	23.8	49	24.9		
\$15 - 19.99	6	25.0	17	17.2	—	—	11	17.4	34	17.3		
\$20 - 29.99	5	20.8	14	14.1	2	18.2	8	12.7	29	14.7		
\$30 - 39.99	2	8.3	3	3.0	3	27.3	3	4.8	11	5.6		
\$40 and over	1	4.2	6	6.1	5	45.4	3	4.8	15	7.6		
Not reporting	1	4.2	2	2.0	—	—	1	1.6	4	2.0		
Total	24	100.0	99	100.0	11	100.0	63	100.0	197	100.0		
Average expenditure per person	\$17.09		\$15.01		\$38.82		\$13.11		\$15.06			

Table 20.- Amount spent per person for clothing in 1940 by families of seasonal workers engaged in cotton chopping in New Madrid County, Missouri, June 1941 (Preliminary)

Amount spent per person	Wage laborers					
	Single		Family		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number*	Percent	Number	Percent
\$0 - 4.99	3	13.0	11	17.2	14	16.1
\$5 - 9.99	1	4.3	15	23.4	16	18.4
\$10 - 19.99	5	21.8	17	26.5	22	25.3
\$20 - 29.99	2	8.7	9	14.1	11	12.6
\$30 - 39.99	5	21.8	6	9.4	11	12.6
\$40 - 49.99	1	4.3	1	1.6	2	2.3
\$50 and over	2	8.7	-	-	2	2.3
Not reporting	4	17.4	5	7.8	9	10.4
Total	23	100.0	64	100.0	87	100.0
Average expenditure per person *	\$25.53		\$12.50		\$13.44	

* For number of families reporting amount spent for clothing.

Table 21.- Amount spent per person for clothing in 1940 by families of seasonal workers engaged in cotton picking, New Madrid County, Missouri, September 1941 (Preliminary)

Amount spent per person	Wage laborers					
	Single		Family		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
\$ 0 - 4.99	-	-	4	6.3	4	3.7
\$ 5 - 9.99	1	2.3	10	15.9	11	10.3
\$10 - 14.99	1	2.3	11	17.5	12	11.2
\$15 - 19.99	3	6.8	12	19.0	15	14.0
\$20 - 29.99	3	6.8	11	17.5	14	13.1
\$30 - 39.99	6	13.6	6	9.5	12	11.2
\$40 and over	25	56.8	9	14.3	34	31.8
Not reporting	5	11.4	-	-	5	4.7
Total	44	100.0	63	100.0	107	100.0
Average expendi- tures per person		\$62.87		\$19.29		\$25.36

Table 22 - Amount spent per person for food by families of regular workers, by tenure, New Madrid County, Missouri, 1940 (preliminary)

Average amount spent per person	Tenure				Wage laborers*				All tenures	
	Share renters	Sharecroppers	Single	Family	Share renters	Sharecroppers	Single	Family	Share renters	Sharecroppers
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
\$0 - 19.99	2	8.3	7	7.1	-	-	1	1.6	10	5.1
\$20 - 29.99	3	12.5	15	15.1	2	18.2	4	6.3	24	12.2
\$30 - 39.99	9	37.5	20	20.2	-	-	11	17.5	40	20.3
\$40 - 49.99	3	12.5	16	16.2	-	-	12	19.0	31	15.7
\$50 - 59.99	4	16.7	21	21.2	-	-	13	20.6	38	19.3
\$60 - 69.99	-	-	8	8.1	-	-	4	6.4	12	6.1
\$70 and over	2	8.3	8	8.1	5	45.4	17	27.0	32	16.2
Not reporting	1	4.2	4	4.0	4	36.4	1	1.6	10	5.1
Total	24	100.0	99	100.0	11	100.0	63	100.0	197	100.0
Average expenditure per person	\$37.39		\$40.67		\$85.00		\$49.36		\$43.18	

*Family wage laborers spending \$70 or more per person for food were distributed as follows:

\$70 - 79.99 - 8; \$80 - 89.99 - 4; \$90 - 99.99 - 0; \$100 and over - 5.

Table 23. Amount spent per person for food in 1940 by families of seasonal workers engaged in cotton chopping in New Madrid County, Missouri, June 1941. (Preliminary)

Amount spent per person	Wage laborers					
	Single		Family		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
\$0 - 19.99	-	-	3	4.7	3	3.4
\$20 - 29.99	-	-	9	14.1	9	10.4
\$30 - 39.99	-	-	15	23.4	15	17.2
\$40 - 49.99	1	4.3	2	3.1	3	3.4
\$50 - 59.99	-	-	9	14.1	9	10.4
\$60 - 69.99	1	4.3	3	4.7	4	4.6
\$70 and over	7	30.5	19	29.7	26	29.9
Not reporting	14	60.9	4	6.2	18	20.7
Total	23	100.0	64	100.0	87	100.0
Average expenditure per person*	\$113.78		\$48.10		\$50.36	

* For number of families reporting amount spent for food.

Table 24. Amount spent per person for food in 1940 by families of seasonal workers engaged in cotton picking, New Madrid County, Missouri, September 1941 (Preliminary)

Amount spent per person	Wage laborers					
	Single		Family		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
\$0 - 19.99	12*	27.3	1	1.6	13*	12.2
\$20 - 29.99	3	6.8	3	4.8	6	5.6
\$30 - 39.99	-	-	6	9.5	6	5.6
\$40 - 49.99	-	-	5	7.9	5	4.7
\$50 - 59.99	-	-	14	22.2	14	13.1
\$60 - 69.99	1	2.3	8	12.7	9	8.4
\$70 and over	25	56.8	22	34.9	47	43.9
Not reporting	3	6.8	4	6.4	7	6.5
Total	44	100.0	63	100.0	107	100.0
Average expenditure per person*	\$173.57		\$63.79		\$76.71	

*Eleven single laborers earned their board. They have not been included in the computation of the average for the whole group.

